

2025

COMPREHENSIVE MULTI-AGENCY JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN

Kings County Probation Department

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Superior Court of Kings County, Kings County Probation Department, Kings County Sheriff's Office, Kings County District Attorney's Office, Kings County Minor's Advocate Office, Kings County Board of Supervisors, Hanford Police Department, Kings County Human Services Agency, Kings County Behavioral Health Department, Kings County Office of Education, Kings View, Kings Community Action Organization, Santa Rosa Rancheria Social Services, Member at Large, and Community Based Organization



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HISTORY

Kings County is located in the heart of California's rich San Joaquin Valley and was founded in 1893, measuring 1,392 square miles with about 87% of its acreage dedicated to agriculture. The county seat is Hanford and includes the incorporated towns and cities of Lemoore, Corcoran, Avenal, Stratford, Kettleman City, Stratford, and Armona.



Due to its primary emphasis on agricultural production, Kings County attracts individuals and families either migrating and/or immigrating from other California counties, states, and countries. The agricultural workforce operates 365 days per year via seasonal rotations to produce and harvest products such as cotton, grapes, raisins, oranges, walnuts, peaches, plums, pecans, corn, alfalfa, tomatoes, almonds, kiwis, pistachios, garlic, watermelon, honeydew, melons, wheat and broccoli. Local, independent farmers produce various products such as strawberries, squash, chilies, and bell peppers.

Along with regular migration and immigration to the area, Kings County hosts a transient population made up of individuals and families following seasonal work patterns throughout the state. Major socio-environmental issues stemming from this dynamic include: poverty, unemployment, illegal immigration, acculturation or cultural differences, language barriers, education, homelessness, lack of affordable housing, health problems and isolation of the family. This transient population poses challenges to service delivery.

Kings County is the home of the Lemoore Naval Air Station, approximately 7,200 military and 1,300 civilians work at NAS Lemoore and around 11,000 military dependents. Lemoore's Naval Air Station is the Navy's largest master jet base, hosting the Navy's entire west coast attack/flight capability. Military life within the Naval Air Station is unique in that families often experience extensive periods of time without the presence of the active duty member. This means at least six (6) months of duty at sea on rotating cycles. The absence of this member causes a great deal of stress for the other parent at home (assuming there are two parents available) and the children. Regular deployment causes an unstable home environment in which unclear expectations and continuous family transitioning exists. There is also a possibility the military member could die, which intensifies anxiety and stress for these family members. Aside from the duty at sea component, military life includes other elements, which impact its citizens. Due to frequent relocations that remove families from extended family support, these families experience isolation and sudden, forced adaptability to constant environmental changes. Further, trauma and stress active duty members experience can increase the risk of Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, leading to domestic violence, substance abuse, and child abuse/neglect.

The Santa Rosa Rancheria (Tachi-Yokut Tribe) is located within Kings County, which further adds to its uniqueness and diversity. The Santa Rosa Rancheria is officially listed on the Federal Register and has a long history of spirituality within its people. For several years, the Tribe has been working to establish itself as autonomous, in part via their gaming resort. It has been expanding services available within its boundaries in an effort to further meet the needs of its members. Due to gaming revenue, the Tribe has been successfully improving the lifestyle of all its families. Housing has been improved. New recreation and office facilities have been built. Education has improved for its children due to technological and curriculum improvements. Employment has risen due to opportunities available at the casino and hotel. Unemployment has dropped below 25% for this population and most members are now off public assistance ([Santa Rosa Rancheria](#)).

Avenal State Prison, California State Prison at Corcoran and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility at Corcoran are located within the boundaries of Kings County, which attract the families of inmates and correctional staff. Realignment began in 2011 and as a result, the population of Avenal State Prison, Corcoran State Prison and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility has declined. One factor was attributed to the state policy which keeps state prisoners in the counties where they committed their crimes rather than sending them to distant state lockups. The added challenge of rehabilitating incarcerated individuals, as well as providing supportive services to their families and the correctional staff, presents an interesting component to the diversity of Kings County. The presence of California State Prisons in the area causes an increase in probation and parole cases, as well as families exposed to criminal behavior, which amplifies the following issues for individuals and families connected to the inmates: substance abuse and addiction, alcoholism, domestic violence, gang activity, mental illnesses, poverty, unemployment and crime.

BACKGROUND

The Kings County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council was established in March 1997 and has since played a vital role in coordinating juvenile justice efforts across the county. The development of this initiative began with a comprehensive research and planning phase, led by probation officers and a department specialist from the Kings County Probation Department. This team was divided into several subgroups, each responsible for collecting data and conducting research to inform and support the project's collaborative phase.

During the collaboration phase, the designated probation team worked alongside representatives from various external agencies, including Kings View Mental Health, the Kings County Office of Education, Kings County Human Services, Kings County Child Protective Services, the Kings County Minor's Advocate's Office, and the Kings Community Action Organization. A preliminary draft of the project was compiled and submitted to the Kings County Juvenile Justice Commission for review and feedback. Following revisions, the final draft was presented to the Kings County Board of Supervisors for approval.

To address the persistent challenges of juvenile crime, a range of programs has been implemented, targeting different stages of intervention—prevention, early intervention, suppression, and incapacitation. The Kings County Probation Department remains actively engaged at every level of the local juvenile justice system.

Additionally, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), a California state law enacted in 2000, provides funding to support local programs and services aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency. By focusing on prevention and intervention, JJCPA seeks to divert youth from deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system while promoting positive outcomes for at-risk youth.

PREVENTION

The Facilitating Accountability Victim Offender Restoration (F.A.V.O.R.) Unit provides intake services countywide. When local law enforcement makes an arrest or issues a citation, all said arrests and citations are referred to the department. Over the course of fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023, the Probation Department processed a total of 392 referrals from local law enforcement agencies. The subsequent fiscal year 553 referrals were processed, representing an increase of approximately 41.07% of referrals received. Disposition of these cases may be achieved by warnings, performance agreements, 6-month contracts or ultimately referral to the District Attorney's Office for filing of a petition in Juvenile Court.

We are pleased to announce that the F.A.V.O.R. Unit successfully reinstated the Youth Expanding Self-Efficacy (Y.E.S.) Program during the past fiscal year. The Y.E.S. Program was successfully hosted at Armona Elementary School, marking a significant step forward in our commitment to youth empowerment and community engagement. This achievement was made possible through the dedicated collaboration of multiple agencies, including the Kings County Probation Department, Kings County District Attorney's Office, California Health Collaborative, Hanford P.A.L. Program, Kings County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit, Armona Fire Department, and Kings County Sheriff's Office Dive Team. Their invaluable participation enriched the program, providing meaningful experiences and opportunities for the youth in our community. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our mission to nurture self-efficacy and personal growth among young individuals. We look forward to building upon this success and expanding the reach of these essential initiatives in the years to come.

INTERVENTION

At the intervention level, the Probation Department continues to offer numerous opportunities to local youth with the goal of preventing further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The field unit supervises approximately 75 court-adjudicated youth who are either on probation or participating in the Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) program. Cases are assigned geographically to ensure consistent visitation and foster relationships with local agencies and resources. Officers are trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques, engaging youth in their treatment and rehabilitation. They are responsible for spending adequate time with each youth and their families during visits to accurately assess needs, identify risk factors, and work toward case plan goals. Child and Family Team meetings are conducted to address youth needs, review case plan objectives, and coordinate necessary services.

Currently, probation officers oversee youth in Hanford and the surrounding areas, including Lemoore, Armona, Avenal/Kettleman City, and Corcoran. To enhance supervision effectiveness, a specialized high-risk caseload has been established for youth with significant needs, such as those who have committed serious or violent

offenses, exhibit mental health concerns, or have been assessed as high-risk for reoffending. These cases receive intensive supervision and access to all available local resources. Conversely, a low-risk caseload was created to minimize unnecessary interaction with the justice system for youth assessed as having a low likelihood of reoffending, ensuring only minimal intervention as needed.

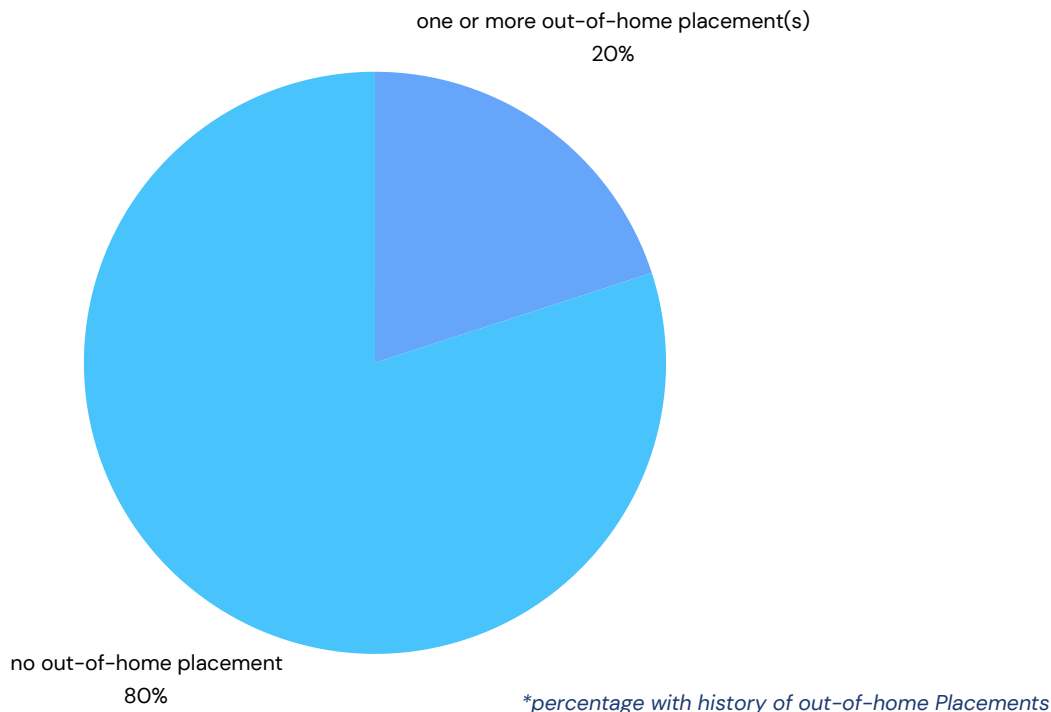
Two juvenile probation officers are assigned to oversee placement caseloads involving youth who, for a variety of circumstances, are unable to be safely or effectively rehabilitated in their home environment. These youth are placed in appropriate settings such as Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), foster homes, relative care, or other approved placements throughout the State of California. Supervision is conducted in alignment with Division 31 regulations, which outline specific requirements including monthly in-person visits, biannual case planning, and ongoing permanency planning.

This assignment necessitates regular travel, as officers are required to visit each placement monthly to maintain direct contact with the youth. Officers utilize motivational interviewing techniques, which demand a significant investment of time and engagement to support each youth's path toward successful rehabilitation. Collaboration with the local child welfare system is also a key component of this role.

In addition to general placement supervision, these officers also support youth eligible for services under Assembly Bill 12. These individuals are transitioning out of juvenile placement and are offered extended services to support their development into independent adulthood. Placement officers are responsible for approving and monitoring Supervised Independent Living Plans (SILPs), ensuring completion of National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) surveys for youth who have exited placement, and confirming that credit reports are obtained for all youth aged 14 and older in out-of-home care.

Out of Home Placements

data for subjects with history of out-of-home Placements



This data above reflects subjects in the system where the most recent Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) assessments completed has one or more, non-delinquent out-of-home placement(s) response(s) selected. The data reflects assessments completed by Kings County Probation Department between 07/01/2023 and 06/30/2024.

The Kings County Probation Department currently partners with Kings View, the county's designated mental health services provider, to deliver targeted behavioral health support to justice-involved youth. This collaboration includes one full-time therapist, one part-time case manager, and one part-time office assistant. The primary objective of these services is to reduce recidivism by addressing mental health and substance use challenges that may hinder successful community reintegration.

These services are extended to youth residing in rural and outlying areas of the county, where access to public transportation is limited, making it difficult to participate in centralized services. To ensure accessibility, the therapist is co-located at the Probation Department and works exclusively with youth under probation supervision.

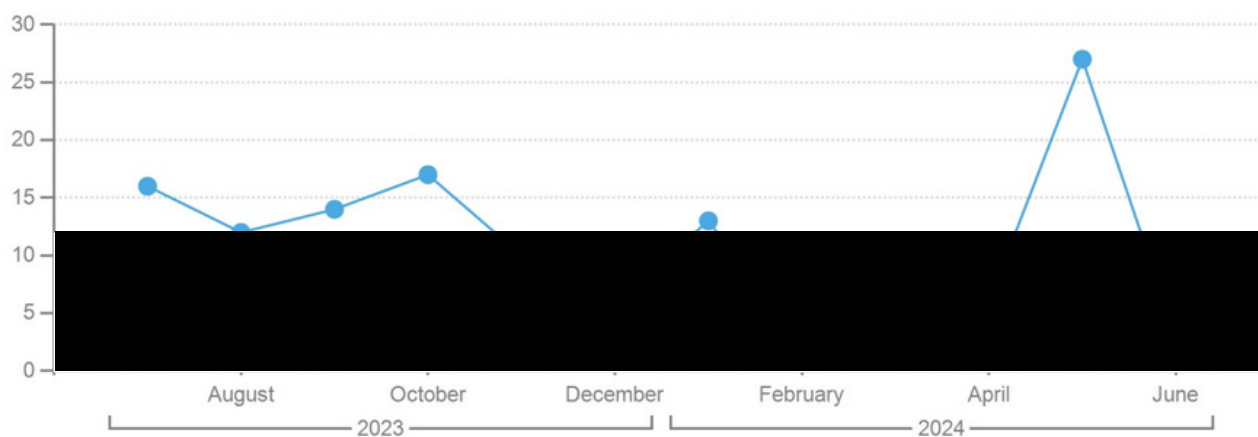
Kings View provides individual, group, and family counseling, as well as dual diagnosis services. Comprehensive assessments are conducted to determine each youth's level of need, and referrals to additional community-based services are made when appropriate. Kings View is committed to implementing evidence-based practices in all aspects of care. Notably, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) has been integrated into their treatment approach. DBT is a well-established, cognitive-behavioral intervention designed for individuals with complex mental health needs. It serves five key functions: enhancing behavioral skills, increasing motivation to change, generalizing skills to everyday environments, structuring treatment settings to support positive behavior, and strengthening therapist effectiveness.

The PACT is utilized to identify the top criminogenic needs, or the dynamic risk factors that have been clinically proven to be predictive of future criminal behavior in our youth. The top criminogenic needs are addressed through the principles of effective intervention: risk principle; need principle, responsivity principle; treatment principle and the fidelity principle. The tool identifies the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the youth's unique assessment profile. Our supervision and court units utilize the PACT assessment tool to determine the needs of the individual youth and recommendations and services are provided appropriately.

Our court and field supervision units utilize the PACT assessment tool to determine the risks and needs of the individual youth in order to make suitable recommendations and provide applicable services. The data below reflects 133 PACT assessments conducted with youth by the Kings County Probation Department between 07/01/2023 and 06/30/2024:

Completed Assessments

133 PACT assessments completed between 07/01/2023 and 06/30/2024

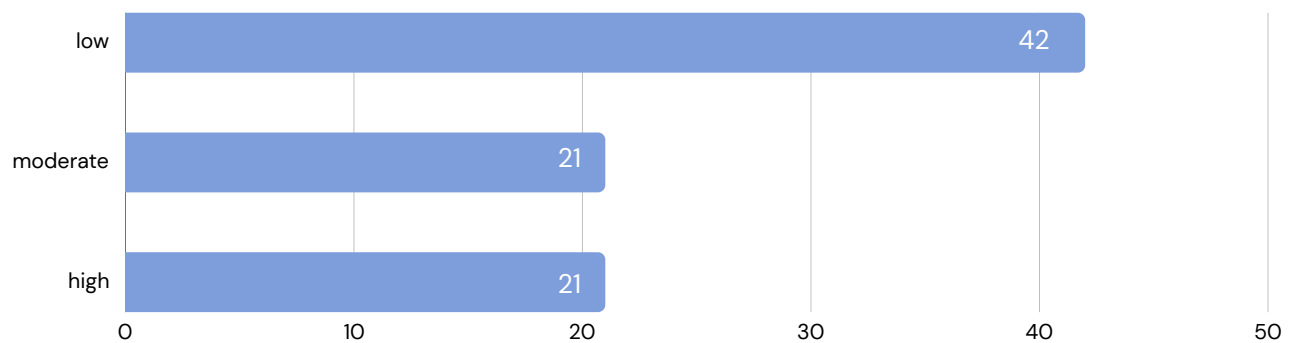


The risk and needs assessment involves evaluating individual youth to determine their risk of reoffending and identifying specific factors that contribute to criminal behavior.

Risk Level is a key factor in the overall risk to re-offend, and helps make supervision level decisions moving forward with the youth. Below are risk levels for PACT assessments conducted by the Kings County Probation Department between 07/01/2023 and 06/30/2024:

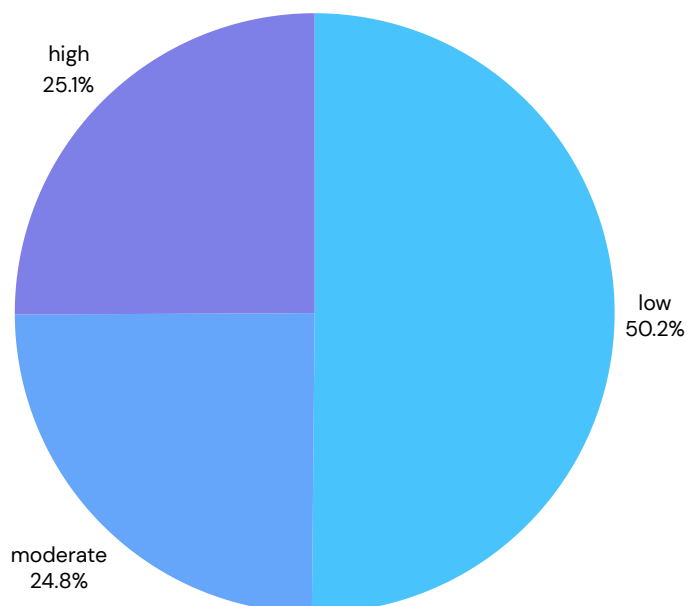
PACT Risk Level

count grouped by risk level



PACT Risk Level

percentage grouped by risk level



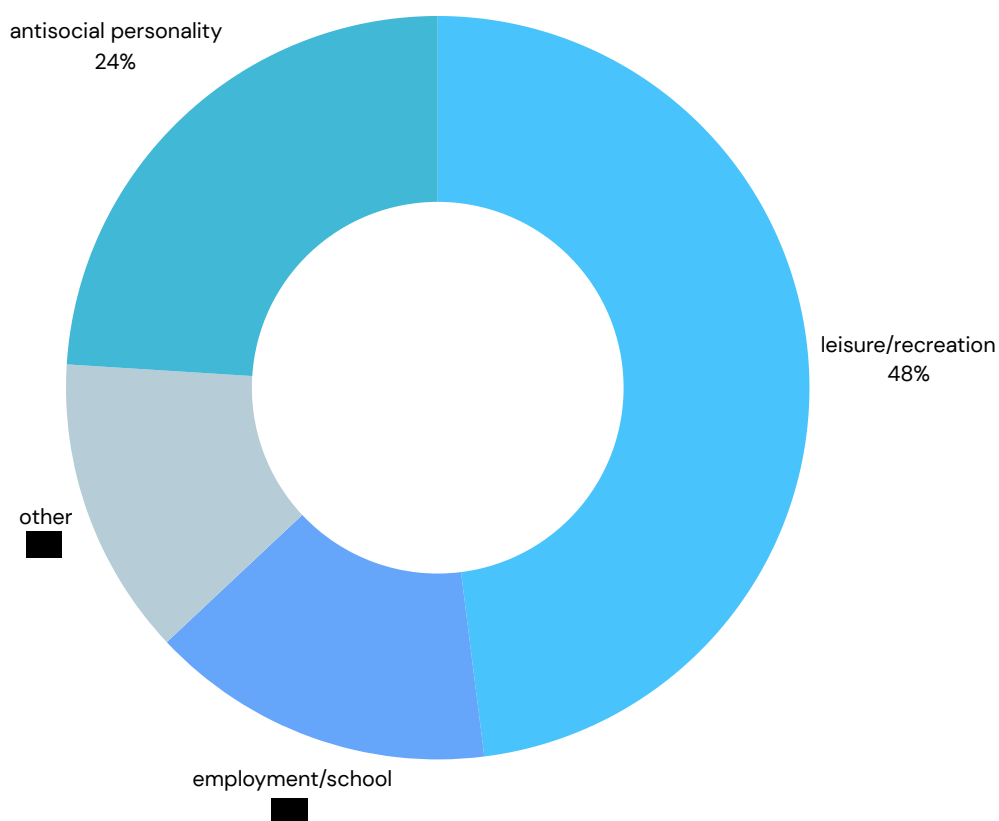
Criminogenic Needs have been clinically validated as reliable indicators of potential future criminal behavior among youth. Addressing these needs is central to effective rehabilitation and is guided by the Principles of Effective Intervention: the Risk, Need, Responsivity, Treatment, and Fidelity principles. These principles serve as a framework to ensure that interventions are appropriately matched to each youth's risk level and specific needs.

Assessment tools help identify the primary criminogenic needs most closely associated with delinquent behavior, which in turn guide the development of individualized case plans aimed at supporting behavioral change and reducing recidivism.

The data presented here reflects a snapshot of the most prevalent criminogenic need areas among youth under the supervision of the Kings County Probation Department. It is important to note that this summary does not encompass stabilizing or protective factors that may also influence outcomes but focuses solely on the identified criminogenic domains.

Criminogenic Needs

Kings County Probation Department's top need areas for assessments completed between 07/01/2023 and 06/30/2024



The Kings County Probation Department remains committed to fostering community partnerships and providing meaningful opportunities for youth rehabilitation through its Juvenile Work Program. This program serves the entire county by offering essential services such as graffiti removal, public area clean-up, disinfection spraying, and participation in local events and community-based initiatives.

Members of the public can access these services by submitting a request either in person or through our user-friendly online portal, which also allows individuals to track the status of their graffiti removal request. This accessible process ensures timely and transparent communication between the department and the community. The program engages youth who have been adjudged wards of the court, allowing them to fulfill their court-ordered community service hours in a structured, skill-building environment. Youth participants receive training in fundamental painting techniques such as brushwork, color mixing, and proper application while also learning how to safely operate various tools including rollers and sprayers.

The Juvenile Work Program plays a vital role in promoting public safety and community pride by swiftly addressing vandalism and graffiti throughout the county. It operates in close collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, community organizations, businesses, and members of the public. This program also serves as a lower-level intervention for youth assessed as low-risk to reoffend, thereby minimizing their exposure to higher-risk or more criminally sophisticated individuals and supporting more targeted rehabilitative efforts.

Additionally, participants gain valuable landscaping skills, learning about plant care, soil composition, and the safe use of equipment such as lawnmowers, trimmers, and leaf blowers. Through hands-on instruction and mentorship, youth not only acquire marketable skills but also experience personal growth, increased confidence, and a greater sense of responsibility. These outcomes are instrumental in encouraging positive behavioral change and successful reintegration into the community.

Furthermore, the Kings County Probation Department offers an Electronic Monitoring Program as an alternative dispositional option. This initiative allows youth to remain in the community while receiving court-mandated rehabilitative services. Electronic monitoring may also be ordered prior to disposition when the court determines that physical custody is not required for public safety. This approach enables continued access to educational and support services, preserving community ties and supporting long-term rehabilitation goals.

SUPPRESSION

Local law enforcement agencies in Kings County are committed to delivering proactive, professional, and respectful public safety services that prioritize the well-being of our communities. Their efforts aim to reduce the impact of crime and mitigate the fear it generates among victims and residents. These agencies embrace a community-oriented policing model that emphasizes collaboration, problem-solving, and strategic partnerships to effectively address the root causes of crime and social disorder.

Kings County is served by five primary law enforcement agencies: the Kings County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), Hanford Police Department, Lemoore Police Department, Avenal Police Department, and Corcoran Police Department. The KCSO maintains criminal jurisdiction on Tribal lands and is also responsible for law enforcement services in unincorporated areas outside the city limits of Hanford, Corcoran, and Lemoore, including the communities of Armona, Stratford, and Kettleman City.

To enhance public safety efforts, the County established the Kings County Major Crimes Task Force (MCTF), a multi-agency unit composed of personnel from local police departments, the Sheriff's Office, Probation, and the District Attorney's Office. Operated under the leadership of the Sheriff's Office, MCTF investigates serious and complex crimes, including gang-related activity and narcotics offenses. The Task Force also collaborates closely with state and federal law enforcement partners to expand its impact and effectiveness.

When comparing previous years plan to this year's, the number of felony, misdemeanor, and status offense arrests remained relatively consistent. This stability suggests that coordinated efforts among law enforcement, community-based organizations, and social service providers are contributing to a balanced and comprehensive approach to public safety. By encouraging collaborative, proactive, and prevention-focused strategies, stakeholders aim to reduce the reliance on arrest and incarceration while strengthening community resilience.

Probation officers actively share pertinent information with partner agencies regarding juveniles under supervision who may be at increased risk. This interagency communication fosters a deeper understanding of the challenges facing justice-involved youth and supports more responsive and tailored service delivery.

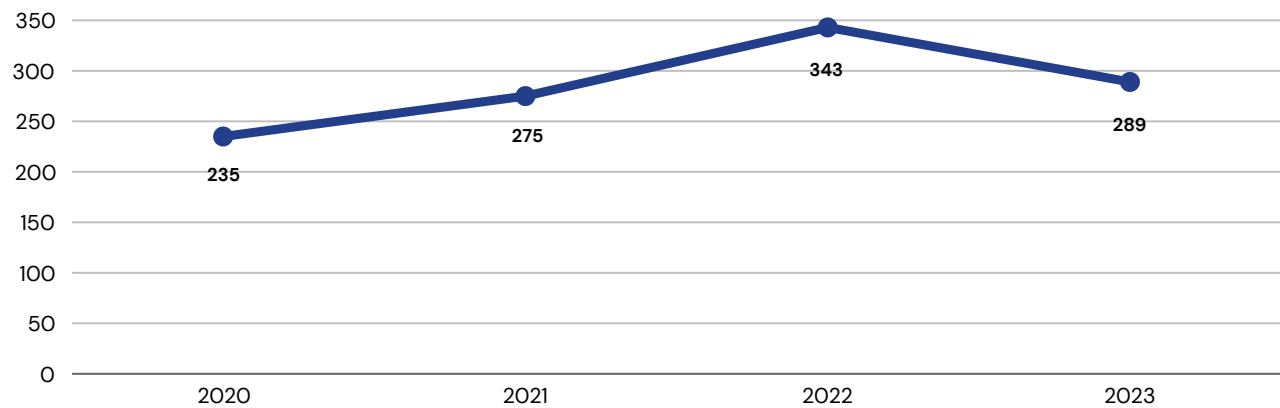
Through ongoing collaboration and awareness, stakeholders are better equipped to identify and access effective alternatives and support services to address juvenile delinquency. These efforts promote informed decision-making, strengthen community partnerships, and contribute to improved outcomes for youth, ultimately working to reduce juvenile arrests and create safer, more supportive communities.

Kings County Juvenile Arrests Data:

The following data is based on data collected, regarding juvenile arrests in Kings County, by the California Department of Justice between 01/01/2020 and 12/31/2023:

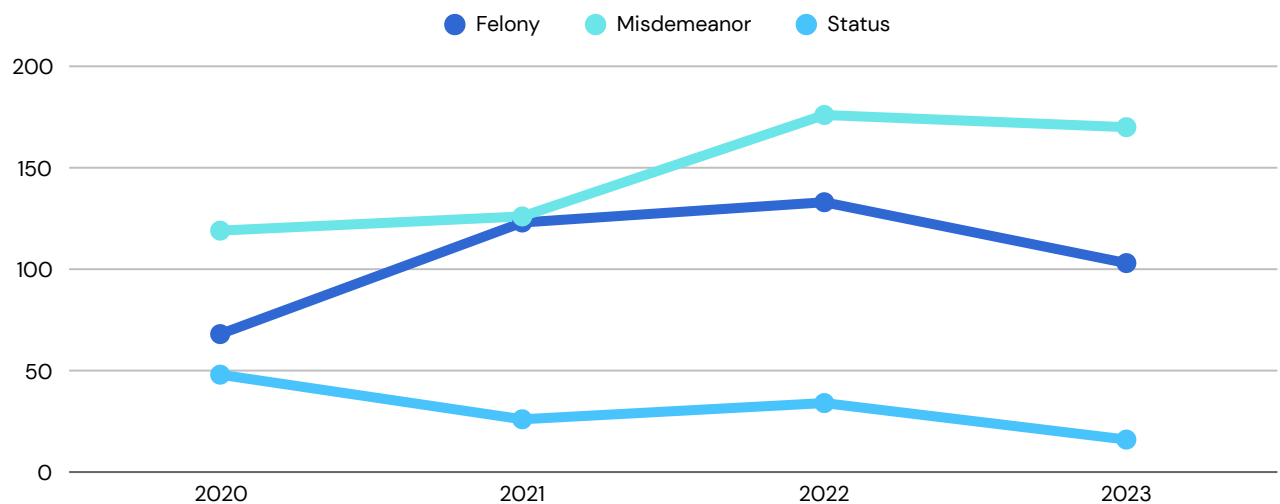
All Juvenile Arrests in Kings County

data provided by [Open Justice](#)



Juvenile Arrest Type in Kings County

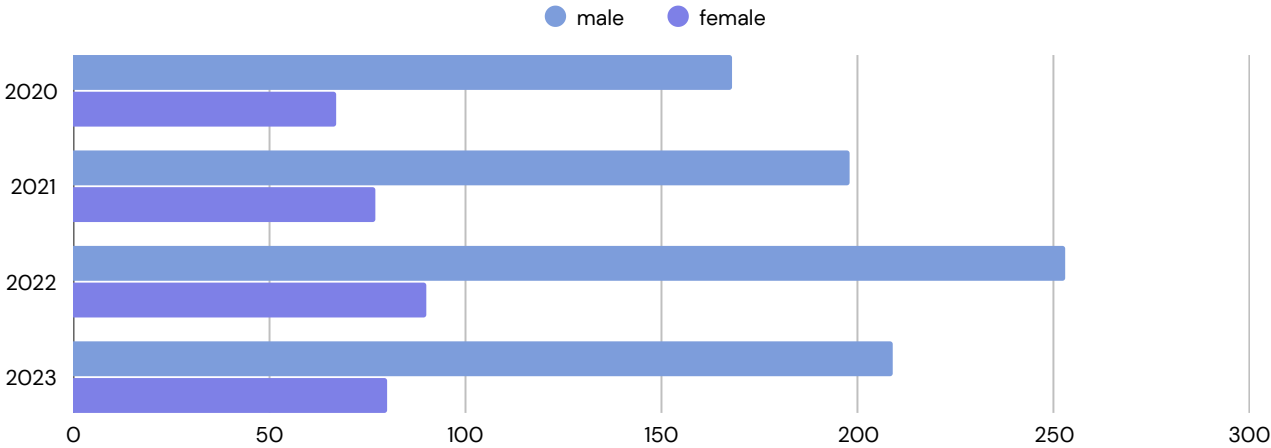
data provided by [Open Justice](#)



arrest type	2020	2021	2022	2023
felony arrests	68	123	133	103
misdemeanor arrests	119	126	176	170
status arrests	48	26	34	16
total	235	275	343	289

Juvenile Arrests By Gender in Kings County

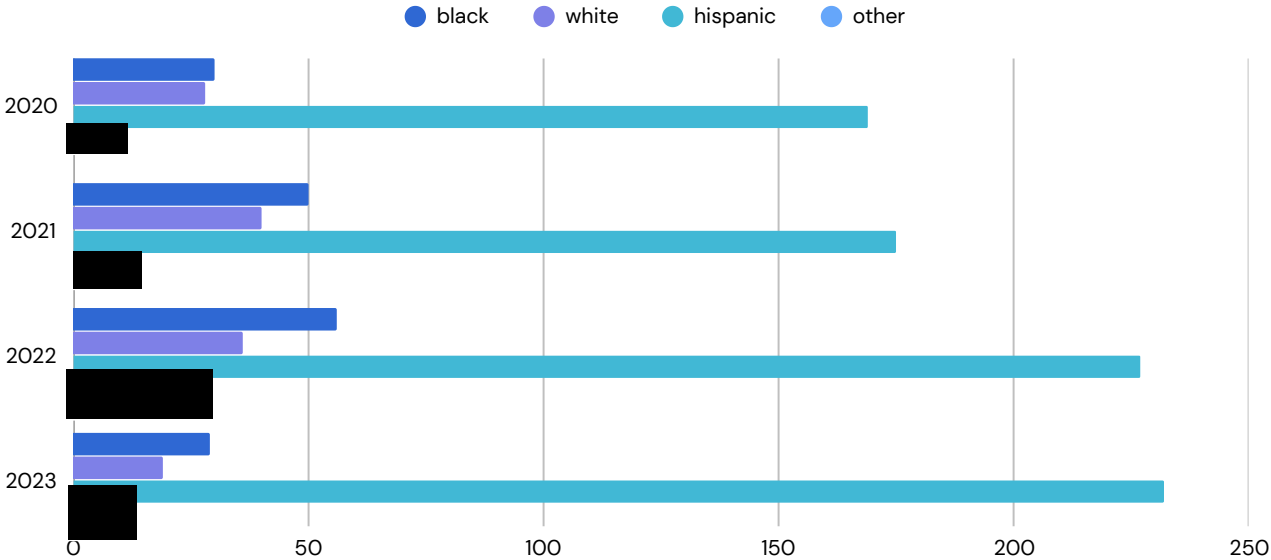
data provided by [Open Justice](#)



arrests by gender	2020	2021	2022	2023
male	168	198	253	209
female	67	77	90	80
total	235	275	343	289

Juvenile Arrests By Race/Ethnic Group in Kings County

data provided by [Open Justice](#)

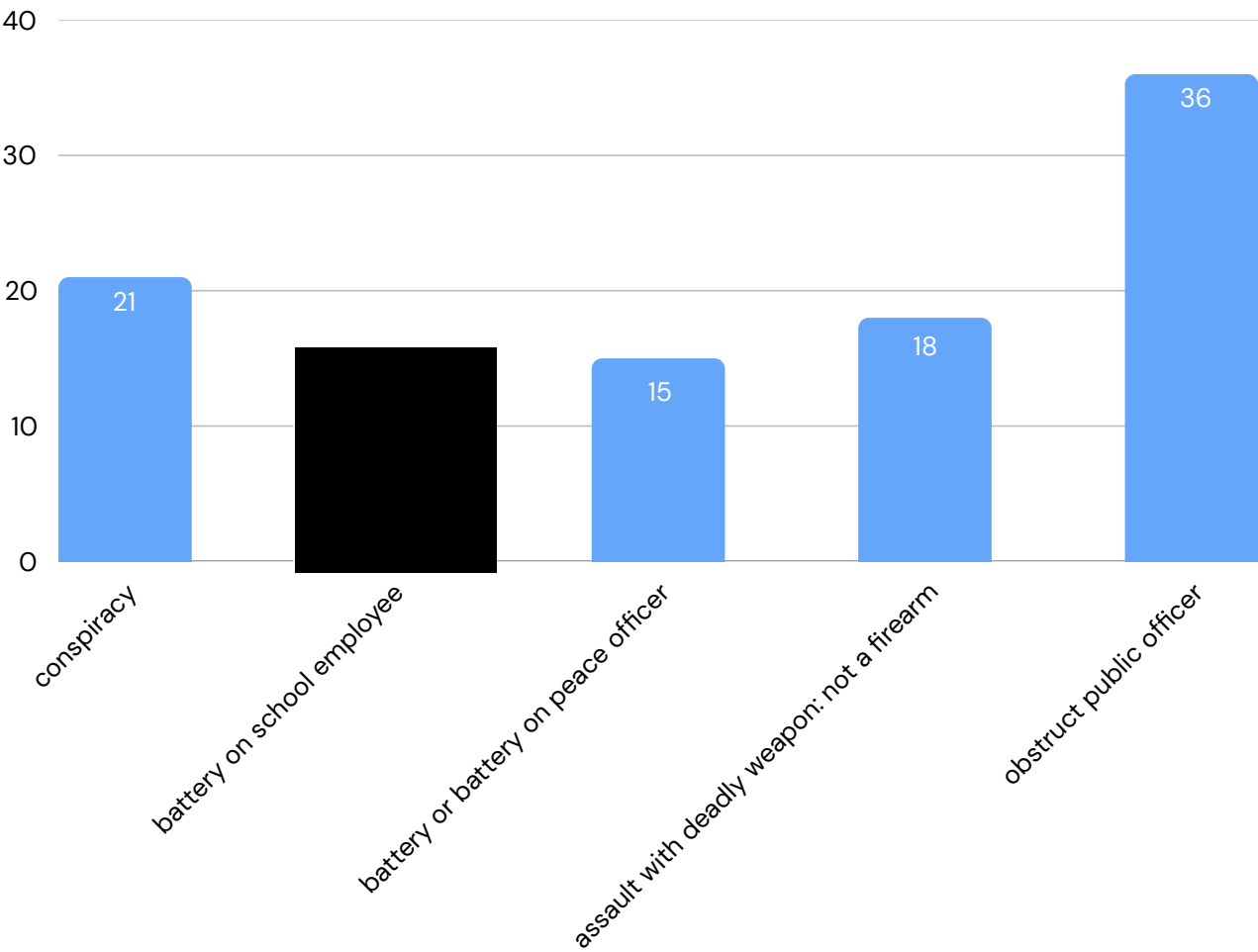


arrests by race/ethnic group	2020	2021	2022	2023
black	30	50	56	29
white	36	36	36	36
hispanic	169	175	227	232
other	24	24	24	24
total	235	275	343	289

Probation Offenses Data:

The following data is based on PACT assessments conducted on youth by the Kings County Probation Department resulting in the top five offenses by frequency for felony, misdemeanor, and other charges; and for male and female offender between 07/01/2023 and 06/30/2024:

Frequency of Offenses
top 5 offenses



INCAPACITATION

The Kings County Probation Department remains the sole agency within the county that provides secure rehabilitation services for youth through the Kings County Behavioral Rehabilitation Academy – New Chance Hub (BRANCH). While many agencies contribute to the broader continuum of care, the Probation Department plays a central and sustained role across all levels of the juvenile justice system and can be regarded as the primary service provider.

Our juvenile facility partners with the Kings County Office of Education to offer year-round educational services. These services are comprehensive and include tailored support for youth with special education needs and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Mental health services are provided by our contracted partner, Wellpath, which delivers individual counseling as well as group-based interventions, including substance use and anger management programs. These services are offered to youth based on clinical assessments or as part of court-ordered requirements. Additionally, Probation Officers and BRANCH staff are trained in and facilitate evidence-based programming, such as the Forward Thinking curriculum.

To support successful reintegration, a dedicated Transitional Probation Officer is assigned to the juvenile facility. This officer works closely with youth to initiate reentry planning at the time of their commitment. This includes administering the PACT assessment to identify risk factors and needs, followed by the development of an individualized case plan. This plan outlines targeted goals and interventions aimed at supporting rehabilitation. The Transitional Officer also ensures that youth are informed of their probation terms and conditions and coordinates necessary referrals for school enrollment, behavioral health, and/or substance use treatment, facilitating service access upon release.

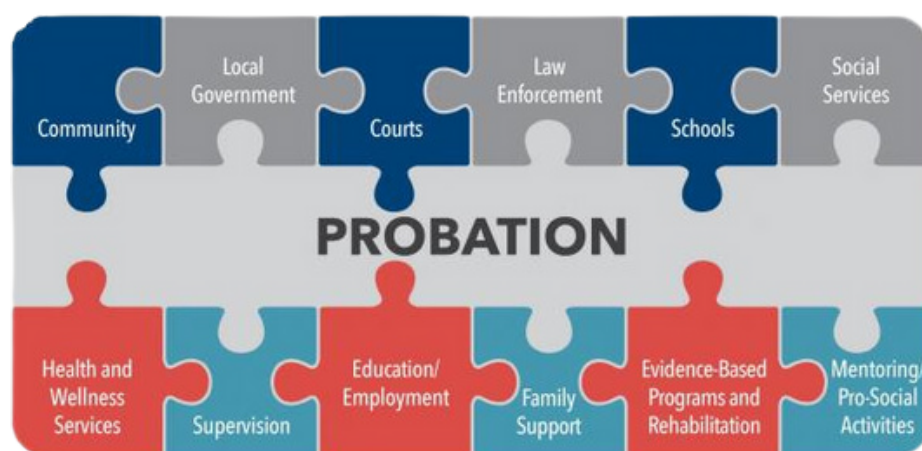
At intake, the Transitional Officer uses the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI), a validated tool that assists in determining appropriate detention decisions based on the youth's risk level. The instrument supports recommendations for release, community-based alternatives, or secure detention.

Prior to a youth's release after serving a commitment, a Transitional Reentry Team meeting is convened with the youth, their family, school personnel, the assigned Probation Officer, juvenile facility staff, Behavioral Health, Kings View, and other relevant service providers. This collaborative meeting focuses on the youth's strengths, court orders, needs, and case plan, ensuring that all stakeholders are aligned in supporting a smooth transition and continued service delivery post-release. The goal is to minimize service gaps and provide immediate support, fostering the most successful outcomes for both the youth and their family.

Kings County offers a comprehensive array of services within the Juvenile Justice System, built on a foundation of interagency cooperation and collaboration. By leveraging the unique strengths and expertise of each partner agency, the County is able to maximize the quality and reach of services delivered to justice-involved youth and their families.

The County's relatively small population and geographic layout support strong interagency relationships, with most public service offices located within close proximity in the county seat. This accessibility fosters an environment conducive to ongoing communication and coordination.

Despite these advantages, several challenges continue to impact the delivery of equitable and effective services—particularly in the more rural areas of the County. Limited access to transportation remains a significant barrier for families residing outside the population centers of Hanford and Lemoore. While initiatives such as the provision of bus passes have been implemented to assist families in accessing services, the availability of public transportation in outlying areas remains minimal, often limited to one daily service. To address this, certain services have been extended to rural communities; however, the scope of those offerings remains limited.



KINGS COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

The Kings County Human Services Agency plays a critical role in protecting vulnerable children across the county. Through a range of programs, the agency works diligently to promote the safety, stability, and overall well-being of families, helping them achieve long-term self-reliance and resilience. Their services also include providing temporary economic assistance to individuals and families in need, along with comprehensive employment, training, and housing support.

Child Protective Services (CPS) is responsible for responding to allegations of child abuse and neglect through its Emergency Response Unit, which operates a 24/7 intake hotline and conducts investigations following referrals. The Court Unit manages petition filings and jurisdiction/disposition reports, maintaining oversight until the court's final disposition. The division also includes ongoing case management units that support Family Reunification, Family Maintenance, Permanency Planning, and AB12 services for Non-Minor Dependents (NMD).

The Kings County Human Services Agency continues to collaborate closely with the Probation Department and the California Department of Social Services to implement the System Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP serves as a foundational agreement between Kings County and the State of California, guiding local strategies to achieve better outcomes for children, youth, and families.

The Probation Department remains an active partner in these efforts and contributes to multi-agency collaboration through its participation in various interagency groups, including the Children's System of Care, the Children's Interagency Advisory Committee, and the Interagency Placement Committee. These partnerships reflect a shared commitment to fostering a comprehensive, coordinated system of care for the county's most vulnerable populations.

KINGS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Kings County Behavioral Health Department is dedicated to supporting individuals and their families in achieving long-term wellness in the face of mental health and substance use challenges. With a focus on empowerment, recovery, and inclusion, the department promotes access to opportunities that encourage individuals to contribute meaningfully to their communities, continue learning, engage in purposeful work, and find hope in each day. The department adopts a person-centered approach, meeting individuals where they are and recognizing the individual beyond the diagnosis. It builds preventative, strengths-based partnerships that are aligned with its mission of promoting health and resilience throughout Kings County.

As the lead agency managing all mental health and substance use disorder service contracts for the county, Kings County Behavioral Health plays a critical role in ensuring the accessibility and quality of behavioral health services. Most recently, in response to Assembly Bill (AB) 1051, which addresses the timely provision of mental health services for foster youth placed outside their county of origin, the department worked in partnership with Kings County Child Welfare Services and the Probation Department to establish a streamlined process. Together, they developed an agreement letter authorizing the provision of Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) to out-of-county youth placed in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). This one-time authorization ensures continuity of care for youth throughout the duration of their placement, reinforcing the county's commitment to coordinated, compassionate care.

KINGS COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The Kings County Office of Education plays a vital role in advancing student achievement across the county. By addressing the needs of both educators and students, they foster academic success and expand access to meaningful educational opportunities. Their comprehensive support includes professional development, instructional technology, alternative learning programs, youth development initiatives, early childhood education, and the coordination of special events, all aimed at enhancing the overall educational experience. Kings County is home to 13 school districts: Armona Union Elementary, Central Union Elementary, Corcoran Unified, Hanford Elementary, Hanford Joint Union High, Island Union, Kings River-Hardwick, Kit Carson, Lakeside Union Elementary, Lemoore Elementary, Lemoore Union High, Pioneer Union Elementary, and Reef-Sunset Unified.

The Kings County Probation Department also partners with the Kings County Office of Education through the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP). This initiative is part of a statewide effort to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care. FYSCP facilitates collaboration among school districts, social service agencies, probation, the courts, foster care providers, and other community partners. Together, they offer training, share resources, and implement evidence-based practices to support the academic success and well-being of foster youth throughout Kings County.



KINGS VIEW

mental health services are coordinated through county-contracted providers who deliver psychiatric care, therapeutic counseling, and crisis intervention. Additionally, through a dedicated agreement with the Kings County Probation Department, the agency provides an on-site therapist who offers specialized support exclusively to youth under probation supervision.



ASPIRANET

engaged through a County contract, the provider delivers Full Service Partnership (FSP) services to youth in Kings County. FSP represents an enhanced level of outpatient behavioral health care, offering comprehensive and intensive, team-based services tailored to meet the complex needs of youth and their families. The program ensures access to mental health support, case management, and crisis intervention services on a 24/7 basis.

JTO JOB TRAINING OFFICE

centered on equipping youth with essential tools for successful re-entry, including resume development, interview workshops, mock interviews, DMV study assistance, and financial literacy training. They also remain actively engaged in the development of Individual Rehabilitation Plans (IRPs) and participate in Re-Entry Team meetings. JTO demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting youth through job readiness services, including career and technical education, as well as the development of foundational employability skills.



WESTCARE

engaged through a county contract, the provider delivers comprehensive Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services to Kings County youth ages 12 to 17. These services include Early Intervention, Outpatient Drug-Free (ODF) treatment, and Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOT). The program encompasses intake assessments, individualized treatment and discharge planning, crisis intervention, collateral support, and both group and individual counseling sessions utilizing evidence-based treatment curriculum.



CHAMPIONS RECOVERY

dedicated to serving community members impacted by social and emotional challenges, family instability, substance use, mental health concerns, and involvement with the justice system. With a strong commitment to public service, the program places particular emphasis on supporting individuals who have experienced trauma and adversity—those in need of hope, healing, and a path toward wellness. Services are thoughtfully provided to non-minor dependents who have been adjudicated as wards of the Court and are under juvenile probation supervision.



MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

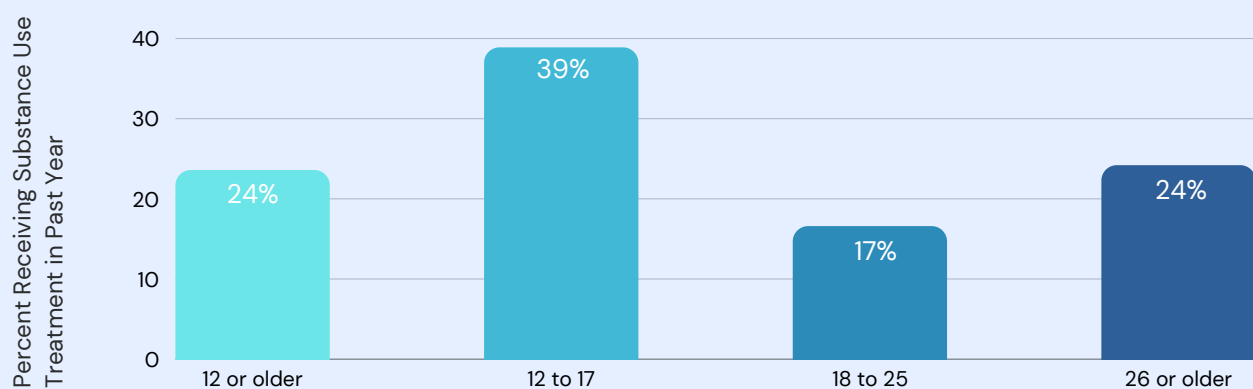
contracted by the County to deliver comprehensive outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) to youth in Kings County. These services encompass mental health assessments, individual, family, and group therapy, case management, and crisis intervention, ensuring a continuum of care tailored to the unique needs of the county's youth.

Estimates from the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) regarding receipt of substance use treatment should not be directly compared to estimates from surveys conducted prior to 2022. This is due to significant revisions made to the substance use treatment questions in the 2022 NSDUH to enhance clarity and accuracy.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in 2023, approximately 4.5% of individuals aged 12 or older (12.8 million) received some form of substance use treatment in the past year. Of these, an estimated 9.8 million people (3.5%) accessed outpatient substance use treatment. Among those receiving outpatient services, 8.1 million individuals (82.6%) received care in settings other than general medical clinics or physicians' offices.

The 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health also introduced refined measures to capture the initiation of substance use, defined as the first-time use of specific substances in an individual's lifetime. The report highlighted data on past-year initiation for the four substances with the highest rates of new use among individuals aged 12 and older: nicotine vaping, alcohol, marijuana, and cigars.

Received Substance Use Treatment in 2023: Among People Aged 12 or Older



According to Kings County Behavioral Health, key risk factors contributing to substance use and abuse in Kings County include a lack of awareness among both parents and youth regarding the physical, mental, neurological, and legal consequences associated with substance use, as well as a generally low perception of harm. Since the legalization of cannabis, local youth have reported increased usage, greater ease of access, and growing social acceptance of cannabis use.

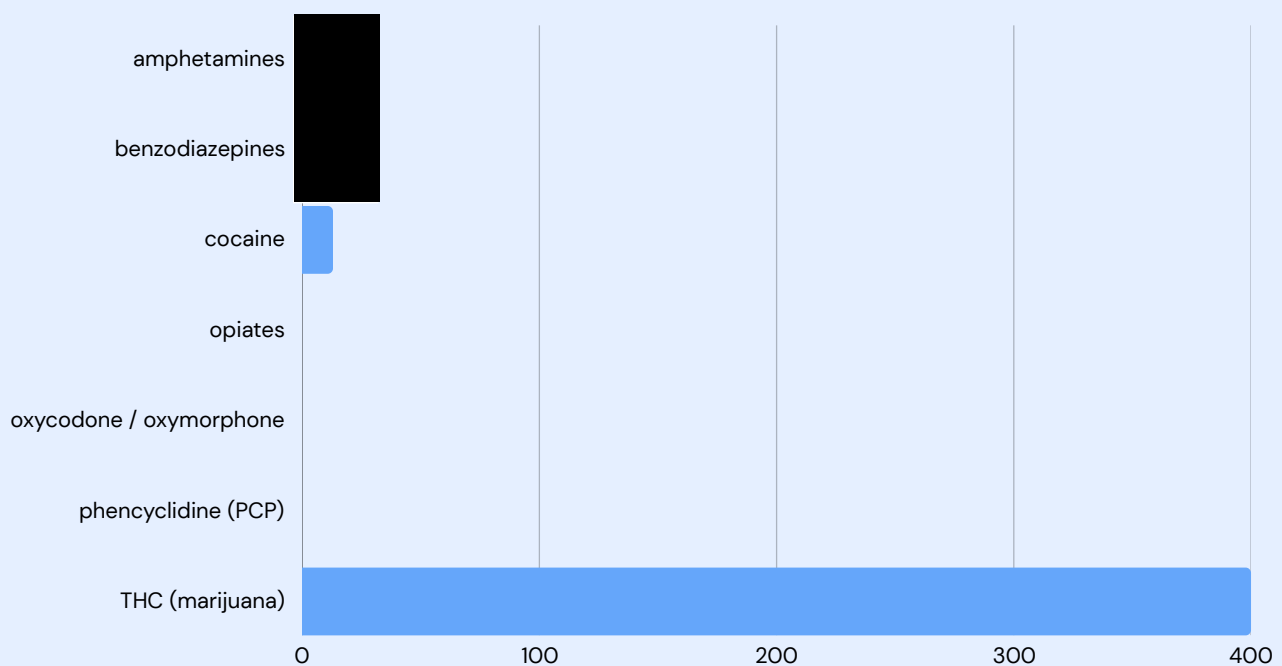
To support residents in accessing prevention and treatment services for substance use disorders (SUD), several agencies and organizations provide vital resources and support. These include Champions Recovery Alternatives, WestCare Adolescent Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), AA/NA/Al-Anon, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), California Health Collaborative, and Kings County Behavioral Health (KCBH).

Health Management Associates (HMA) is a nationally recognized, independent research and consulting firm specializing in the healthcare sector. HMA brings years

of expertise in research and evaluation, policy analysis, strategic planning, government affairs, organizational development, and needs assessment. In collaboration with local stakeholders—including the Kings County Probation Department—HMA has played an instrumental role in advancing efforts around Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). This evidence-based approach integrates medication with counseling and behavioral therapies to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care for individuals with substance use disorders.

Probation Drug Testing Data:

The following data is based on 1,450 urine samples collected from youth by the Kings County Probation Department between 07/01/2023 and 06/30/2024 (All positive samples confirmed via lab):



positive specimens by drug class	# of negative	% of negative	# of positive	% of positive
amphetamines				
benzodiazepines				
cocaine	171	92.93%	13	7.07%
opiates	169	100%	0	0%
oxycodone / oxymorphone	169	100%	0	0%
phencyclidine (PCP)	169	100%	0	0%
THC (marijuana)	6	1.48%	400	98.52%

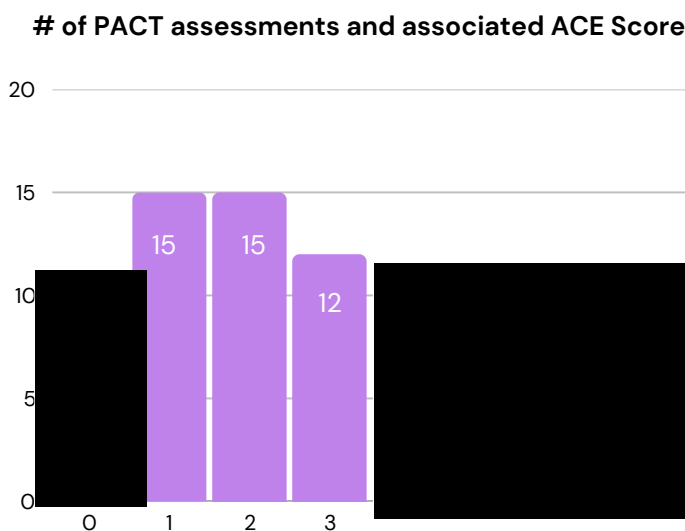
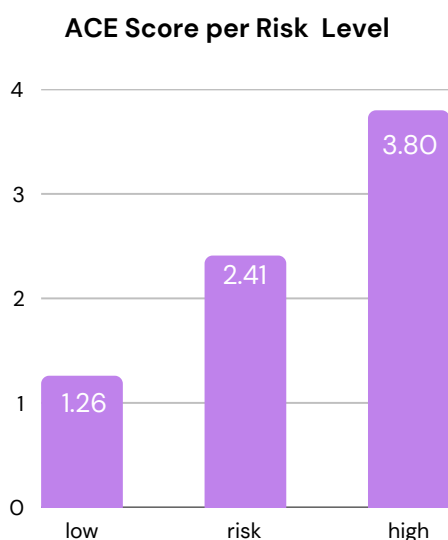
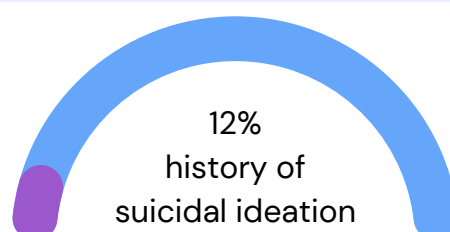
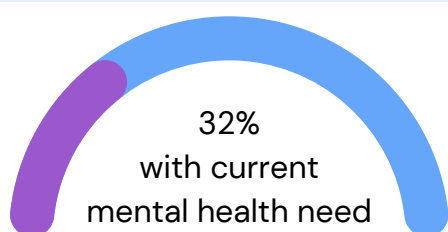
Kings County Behavioral Health places a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention as foundational strategies in addressing mental health challenges across our communities. In alignment with this vision, three innovative programs—Suicide Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction, and Student Mental Health—are proactively addressing some of the most pressing mental health concerns facing our residents today. These programs are built on proven approaches and hold significant promise for transforming lives and systems.

Not only do these initiatives have the potential to dramatically reduce the long-term costs associated with crisis services for individuals experiencing serious mental illness, they also serve a more profound purpose: helping thousands of children, adults, and seniors maintain their mental well-being and lead healthier, more productive lives.

Investing in these prevention and early intervention efforts is both fiscally responsible and morally imperative. By addressing mental health needs early and effectively, we can strengthen families, improve community outcomes, and build a healthier future for all Kings County residents.

Probation Mental Health Data:

The following data is based on PACT assessments conducted on youth by the Kings County Probation Department between 07/01/2023 and 06/30/2024:



RE-ENTRY SUPPORT

Reef-Sunset Unified School District is committed to expanding family engagement and educational programming aimed at connecting families to vital services, empowering parents as active partners in their children's education, and supporting the development of healthy home learning environments.

The district's Family Engagement Center serves as a vital resource hub, offering support in areas such as clothing, food, housing, utilities, legal assistance, workforce development, translation services, technology, and transportation. The Center also hosts parent workshops, family engagement nights, and parent leadership groups, all designed to strengthen the partnership between schools and families.

In alignment with its mission to foster inclusive and accessible education, the Center offers free document translation services in English and Spanish. Additionally, staff are available to assist parents with setting up their Aeries Parent Portal, creating a Parent Square account, or even getting started with email.

CURRENT COLLABORATION

The Kings County Probation Department remains a committed and collaborative partner within the Children's System of Care (CSOC), led by Kings County Behavioral Health. Together with key system partners. The team includes Aspiranet (FSP/MCST), California Health Collaborative (CHC), KIND/TURN Center, Kings County Human Services Agency, Kings County Office of Education, WestCare, Inspiring Pathways, JDT Consultants, Incorporated, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), and internal Kings Behavioral Health divisions such as Quality Assurance and Substance Use Disorders Services. All parties regularly engage in joint discussions to support shared goals. These ongoing efforts aim to strengthen coordination, proactively address challenges, and support the health, safety, and well-being of children and families in Kings County.

In addition, the Probation Department actively participates in the Family Urgent Response System (FURS), a statewide initiative providing 24/7 immediate, trauma-informed support to current and former foster youth (up to age 21) and their caregivers. FURS offers access to both a statewide hotline and a county-based mobile response and stabilization team staffed by trained professionals to ensure youth and families receive critical support during times of crisis.

The Probation Department also collaborates closely with Kings County Behavioral Health, Kings County Office of Education, the Central Valley Regional Center, and the Human Services Agency through the Children's Interagency Advisory Committee (CIAC). CIAC serves as a strategic, cross-agency forum designed to enhance service coordination and accountability. Currently, all participating agencies are finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will outline the shared purpose of the

collaboration, define each agency's roles and responsibilities, and establish common processes to streamline service delivery.

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As a member of the Interagency Leadership Team (ILT), the governing body of CIAC, the Probation Department participates in decision-making and strategic planning to strengthen the county's child-serving systems. Each partner agency appoints a representative or designee to the ILT, ensuring consistent leadership engagement and collective accountability.

The Interagency Placement Committee (IPC), an executive committee of the ILT, plays a key role in overseeing complex youth placements. This team includes representatives from Behavioral Health (Licensed Clinicians), Human Services Agency, Probation, the County Office of Education, the Central Valley Regional Center, and the County Mental Health Plan. IPC members possess the experience and insight necessary to make informed placement decisions that prioritize youth well-being and continuity of care. Additional participants may include tribal representatives, Qualified Individuals, ISFC providers, Resource Families, Wraparound service providers, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), foster family agencies, out-of-state providers, public health staff, and other relevant decision-makers.

When working with youth at risk of out-of-home placement, the Probation Department strives to keep youth safely within their home or community whenever possible. This is achieved through collaborative planning, Wraparound services, Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, and proactive engagement with relatives and natural supports. These strategies help maintain family stability and minimize disruption, while addressing underlying challenges through strength-based and evidence-informed interventions; hence, the lower percentage of out-of-home placements this year by the Probation Department for justice the involved youth.

For youth requiring higher levels of care, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) provide a structured, therapeutic environment tailored to meet individualized needs. The Probation Department works collaboratively with system partners to support successful transitions through STRTP step-down programs. These programs ensure continuity of care as youth move to less restrictive

environments, such as Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC), relative placements, or independent living—based on their readiness and support needs. The overarching goal is to empower youth with the skills, resources, and supports necessary for long-term success and community reintegration.

In December 2024, the County of Kings officially opened The BRANCH – Behavioral Rehabilitation Academy – New Chance Hub, juvenile rehabilitation center funded through Senate Bill 81. This facility was created through the renovation of the former Kings County Branch Jail and reflects a modern, therapeutic approach to juvenile justice. It stands as a testament to our county’s dedication to transformation and innovation in youth services.

The Probation Department continues to evolve its approach to youth rehabilitation and reentry. This is evident in our commitment to reducing system involvement, expanding rehabilitative programming, and implementing evidence-based and trauma-informed practices. We focus not only on youth who are justice involved but also on those at risk, by offering prevention services, transitional supports, and meaningful opportunities for change.

Looking ahead, the Probation Department is pleased to announce the launch of Parent Informational Sessions for families of justice-involved youth. The first session will take place at the Juvenile Day Reporting Center on Wednesday, April 30, 2025. These sessions are designed to empower parents and caregivers by providing education on the juvenile justice system, behavioral management techniques, legal considerations, collaboration opportunities, and access to vital community resources. Together, we remain steadfast in our mission to create a safer, healthier, and more supportive environment for all children and families in Kings County.