

Youth Justice Report 2017



Mural designed by youth in the 2017 Summer Youth Employment Program under the direction of art teacher Jack Tatay.

Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services
Kenosha County Juvenile Court Intake

September 2018

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Youth Justice Report 2017

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Introduction

Welcome to the 13th annual Youth Justice Report prepared for the Kenosha County community and stakeholders. Since 2005 this report has provided valuable information regarding local, state, and national trends regarding youth in the Youth Justice System. In addition, the report also contains data that is used to determine if the goals of the Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services - Court Services Unit (DCFS) and Juvenile Court Intake (JCI) are being met and whether the services being provided to our community youth are meeting the treatment needs of the youth involved in the youth justice system.

Hold Youth
Accountable

Build Youth
Competency

Increase Public
Safety

Promote
Restorative
Justice

Both agencies work with youth who are delinquent or habitually truant from school. Juvenile Court Intake provides informal supervision and diverts youth from the court process. The Division of Children and Family - Court Services Unit provides formal supervision of youth who have been found delinquent or truant by the court. Youth and their families are court-ordered to comply with conditions designed to meet the treatment needs of the youth and family.

Continued tracking of outcome indicators allows DCFS and JCI to identify trends and evaluate the impact of services provided to youth in the youth justice system. Both agencies utilize a balanced approach that incorporates the principles of positive youth development in order to meet the goals of youth accountability, protection of the community, youth competency development and restoring victims of crime.

Incorporated into this report are the indicators used to determine the allocation of the resources provided to youth in the community. These indicators include youth arrests, truancy referrals/petitions, secure detention usage, out of home placements, gender and race.

Below are the highlighted trends found in the report:



Trending Up

Number of Truancy Referrals



Trending Down

Number of Delinquency Referrals



Steady

- Number of Juvenile Arrests
- Non-Recidivism Rate



Variable

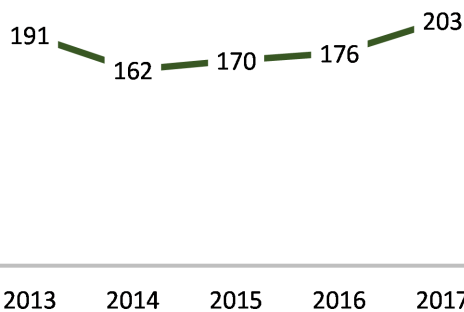
- Percentage of youth diverted from formal court supervision
- Percentage of restitution recovered by adjudicated youth

Number of Youth - 2017 Cohort

Information contained in the first part of the Youth Justice report is based on Case Closure Form data of youth with either 1) closed deferred prosecution agreements with JCI or 2) youth adjudicated delinquent or under supervision for habitual truancy that are closed with DCFS in a given year.

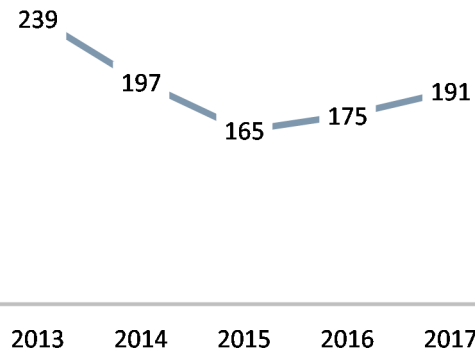
The number of youth with closed deferred prosecution agreements through JCI increased by just over 15% in 2017—reaching a five-year high of 203.

Number of Youth in Report - JCI



The number of youth with closed truancy and delinquency cases decreased for two consecutive years followed by a slight increase in 2016 (**6%**). The number increased again by **9%** in 2017.

Number of Youth in Report - DCFS

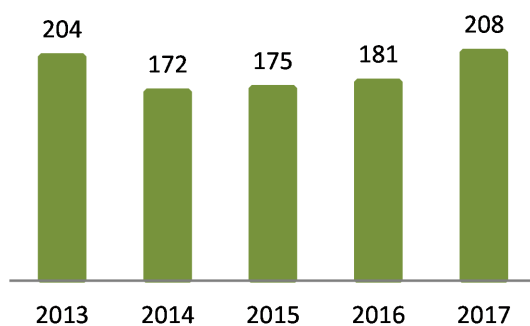


Number of Case Files Closed – 2017

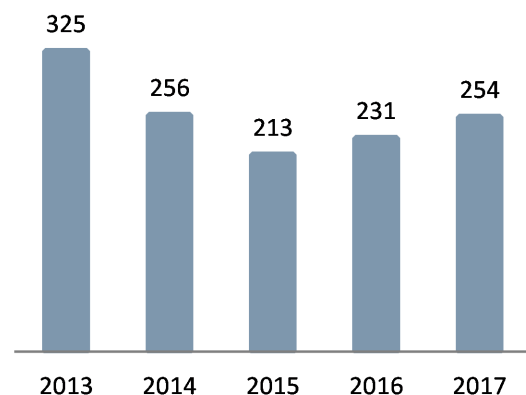
It is unusual for a youth to have more than one deferred prosecution agreement in a 12-month period—therefore there is minimal overlap between the number of youth and the number of case files closed by JCI in a given year. For example, there are 203 youth represented in this report (see graph above) with 208 cases files closed (see chart below). After remaining fairly steady between 2014 and 2016, the number increased by nearly **15%** in 2017.

It is not uncommon for a youth to be under DCFS supervision with multiple case files. Referrals may come in with more than one case, or a youth may recidivate while on supervision. The number of case files closed increased by **10%** in 2017, slightly higher than the number of youth, which increased by **9%**.

Number of Case Files Closed - JCI

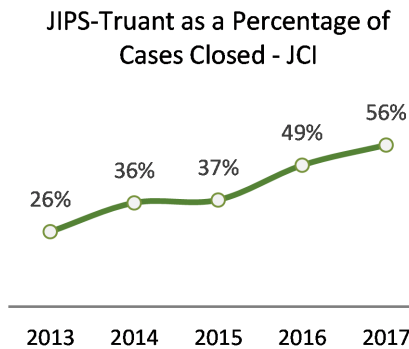


Number of Case Files Closed - DCFS

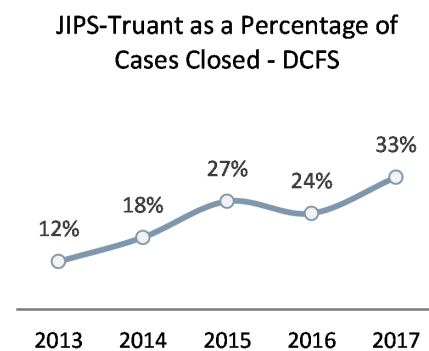


Type of Cases Files Closed - 2017

Juvenile Court Intake serves youth under truancy (JIPS-Truant) or delinquency deferred prosecution agreements (DPAs). The percentage of cases closed by JCI that were JIPS-Truant has increased by 32 percentage points over the past five years and is at the highest level since this report began in 2005.



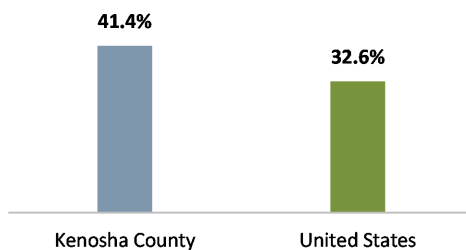
JIPS-Truant case files represent a smaller proportion of case files closed by DCFS compared to JCIS. The percentage of truancy files closed in 2017 by DCFS increased by 9 percentage points. The percentage of closed cases that were JIPS-Truant is also at the highest level since the first Juvenile Justice Report (2005).



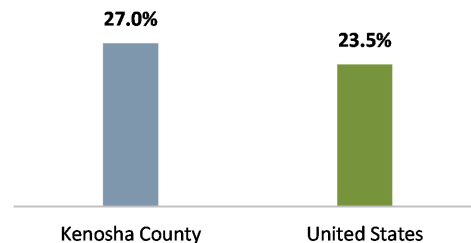
Gender - 2017 Cohort

Kenosha County has a higher percentage of female cases handled informally—e.g., deferred prosecution agreements—compared to the nation as a whole (see chart below). While the same holds true for delinquency cases, the difference is smaller—3.5 percentage points higher compared to 8.8 percentage points for cases handled informally.

*In Kenosha County, females represent a higher percentage of cases handled **informally** compared to the nation as a whole.*



*Kenosha County has a higher percentage of females **adjudicated delinquent** compared to the nation as a whole.*



*Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2017). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2016." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/esapop/>

Race/Ethnicity - 2017 Cohort

- According to U.S. Census figures, just over **65%** of youth 6-17 years of age in Kenosha County are Caucasian, **11.4%** African American, and **21.1%** Hispanic.
- Caucasian and Hispanic youth continue to be underrepresented in the annual cohorts (**43.4%** and **17.5%**, respectively) while African-American youth are overrepresented (**37.8%**). The percentage of Hispanic youth in the 2017 cohort is the highest since this report began in 2005.

■ Caucasian ■ African American ■ Hispanic ■ Multi-Racial

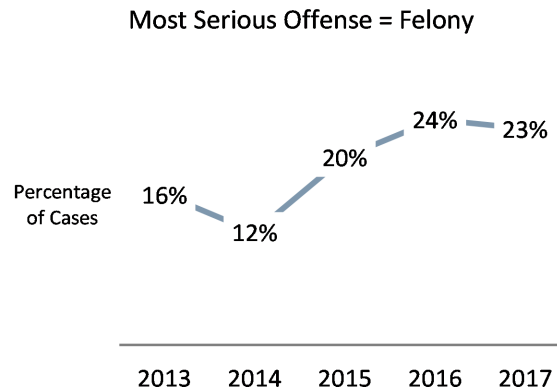


*Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2017). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2016." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/esapop/>

Offense Type - 2017 Cohort

Misdemeanors, which comprise the largest percentage of total offenses, typically include disorderly conduct, battery, retail theft, and criminal damage to property.

Felonies comprised **23%** (n=59) of all offenses committed by delinquent youth in both the 2017 JCIS and DCFS cohorts. The most common felonies include assault and burglary.



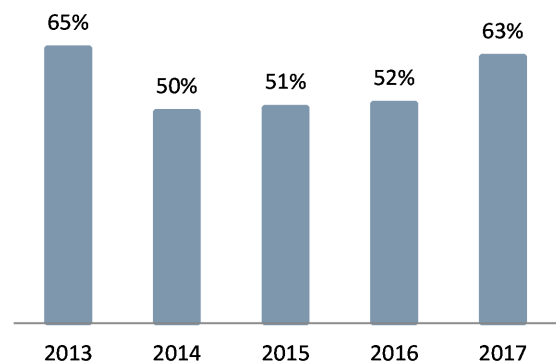
Habitual Truancy - 2017 Cohort

The percentage of JIPS-Truants (n=145) no longer habitually truant at case closure increased by 9 percentage points to **63%** in 2017. Habitual truancy is defined as unexcused absence for part or all of five or more days in a semester.

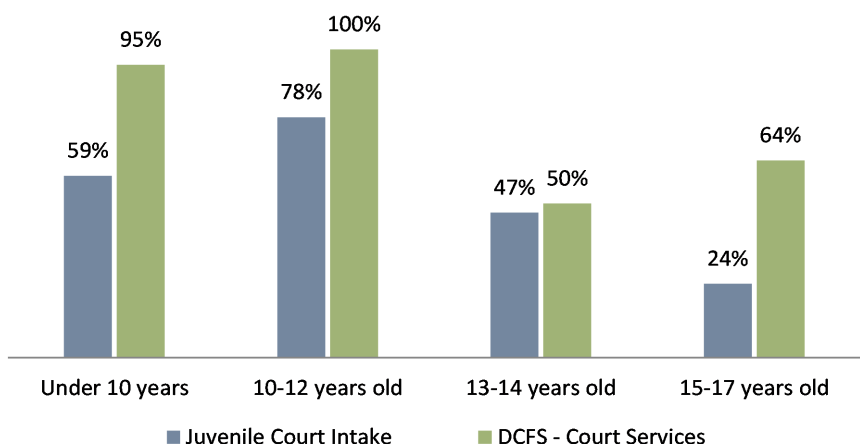
JIPS-Truant youth under deferred prosecution agreements are less likely to be successful (**52%** no longer habitually truant at closure) compared to JIPS-Truants under supervision with the Division of Children and Family Services (**78%** no longer habitually truant at case closure).

The percentage of youth supervised by DCFS for delinquency that were not habitually truant from school at case closure was **73%**. Of those youth who were habitually truant, **57%** were 16 years of age and older.

Percentage of JIPS-Truant Youth No Longer Habitually Truant at Case Closure (JCI & DCFS)



Percentage of JIPS-Truants No Longer Habitually Truant at Case Closure by Age Group



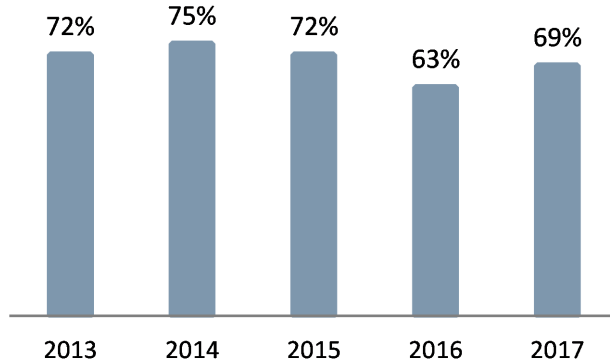
Age is a determining factor regarding habitual truancy. For both JCI and DCFS, success rates drop for older youth (see chart at right).

JCI demonstrates higher success rates with youth under 12 years of age. The percentage of youth no longer habitually truant at case closure drops further and faster for older youth under a deferred prosecution agreement.

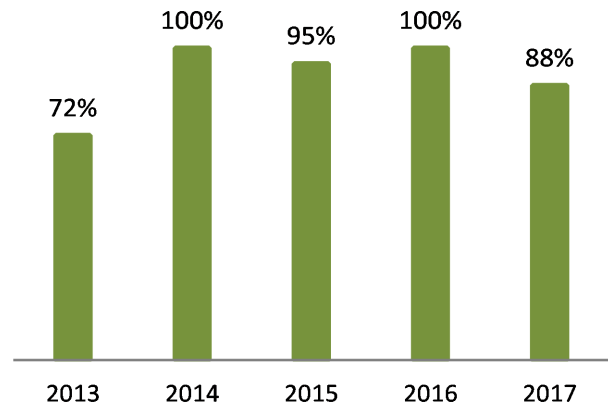
Community Service Work & Restitution - JCI 2017 Cohort

- A total of 62 youth in the 2017 JCI cohort were required to complete 2,067 hours of community service work (CSW) - 1,422 of which were completed (**69%**). This percentage includes youth who did not successfully complete their deferred prosecution agreement.
- Twelve youth in the 2017 JCI cohort were required to pay \$6,094 in restitution under their deferred prosecution agreement and \$5,372 was recovered (**88%**). Nine of the twelve youth paid all of their restitution (**75%**).

CSW Completion Rate - JCI



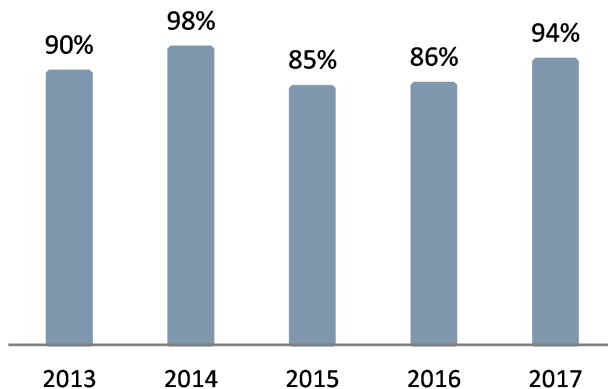
Percentage of Restitution Collected - JCI



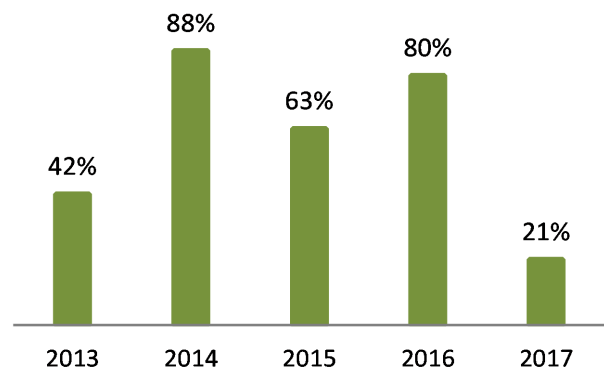
Community Service Work & Restitution - DCFS 2017 Cohort

- A total of 22 youth in the 2017 DCFS cohort were ordered to complete 830 hours of community service work - 783 of which were completed (**94%**). The completion percentage has remained at or above **85%** for the past five years.
- There were 10 youth in the DCFS 2017 cohort required to pay a total of \$7,381 in restitution. A total of \$1,574 was recovered (**21%**) - 4 out of 10 youth paid all of their restitution (**40%**). Youth and their parents were issued civil judgements for the remaining \$5,806.

CSW Completion Rate - DCFS



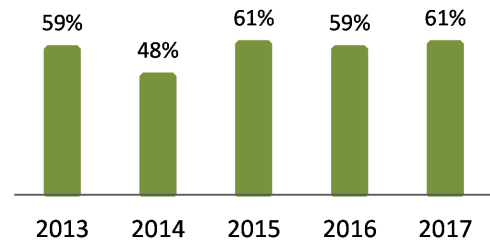
Percentage of Restitution Collected-DCFS



Court Diversion - JCIS

- The percentage of youth under DPAs diverted from court decreased by 2 percentage points between 2015 and 2016.
- The 2016 diversion rate is above the five-year average of **56%**.
- There was no difference in diversion rates when comparing JIPS-Truants and youth under a delinquency DPA.

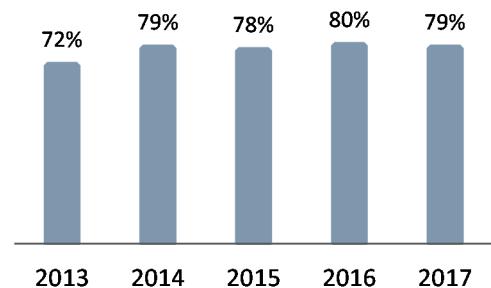
JCI Court Diversion Rate



Non-Recidivism - DCFS

- The non-recidivism rate - defined as remaining free from new delinquency adjudications and adult charges while under supervision - was **80%** in 2016. The five-year average is **76%**.
- Youth under supervision for truancy had a higher non-recidivism rate (**96%**) when compared to delinquents (**72%**).
- The post-supervision non-recidivism rate - defined as no new adjudications or convictions in either juvenile or adult court one year after case closure - was **74%** for cases closed in 2016.

DCFS Non-Recidivism Rate



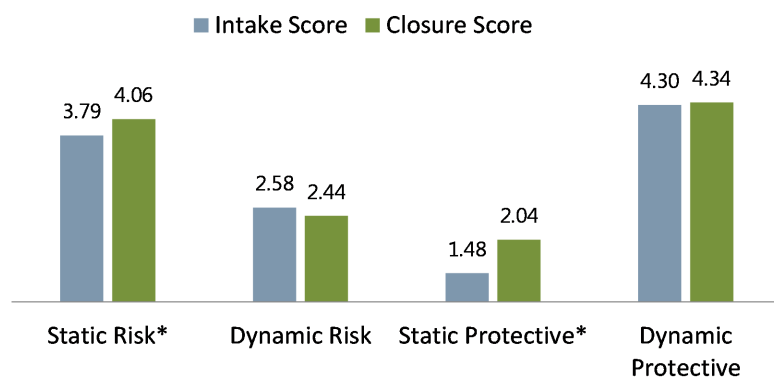
Risk and Protective Factors

The Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) is a tool to determine risk level as well as the presence of protective factors that was designed to address racial and economic status bias as well as assist in determining length of supervision and services to be provided to youth and families. The YASI helps build upon youths' strengths and better match their needs with evidence-based resources.

This data includes all youth that have an initial assessment **and** re-assessment at case closure to-date (n=118). 'Static' factors generally remain constant (e.g., family criminality, age at first arrest, number of past legal charges) while 'dynamic' factors are fluid and may improve or worsen over time.

Increases in static risk and static protective factors were statistically significant. This means there was an increase in documented criminality, but also demonstrated improvements in areas such as use of free time, attitude, peer groups school performance, and employment. The overall YASI scores indicate that youth are less likely to engage in delinquent behavior post-supervision with DCFS.

Average YASI scores by risk and protective factor categories



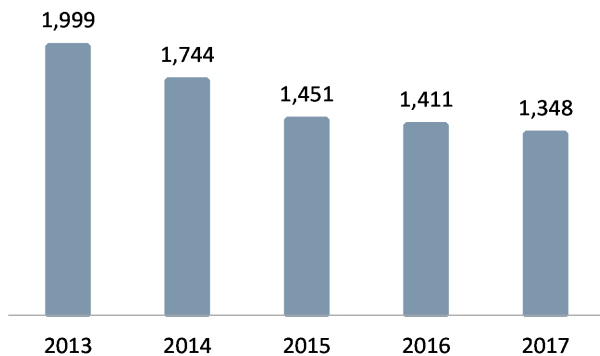
Scores are based on a Likert scale:

- 1 = Low**
- 2 = Low-Moderate**
- 3 = Moderate**
- 4 = Moderate-High**

Juvenile Arrests

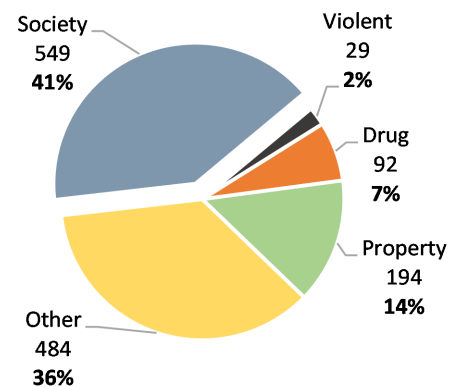
- The overall number of juvenile arrests decreased slightly in 2017 (**-4.5%**). Since 2013 the total number of arrests has dropped by **32.6%** (see chart below).
- Juvenile arrests in Wisconsin decreased by **6.2%** in 2017 (42,459 to 39,824) and **27.9%** between 2013 and 2017 (55,251 to 39,824).

Number of Juvenile Arrests - Kenosha County



- The largest category - Society - includes offenses such as disorderly conduct, curfew/loitering and liquor law violations. The number of Society arrests decreased by **9.9%** in 2017.
- The most common offenses in Other include truancy and tobacco ordinance violations—arrests increased by **11.0%**.
- Violent crimes dropped by **26.6%** and Property crimes dropped by **13.5%**.

Juvenile Arrests by Type - 2017

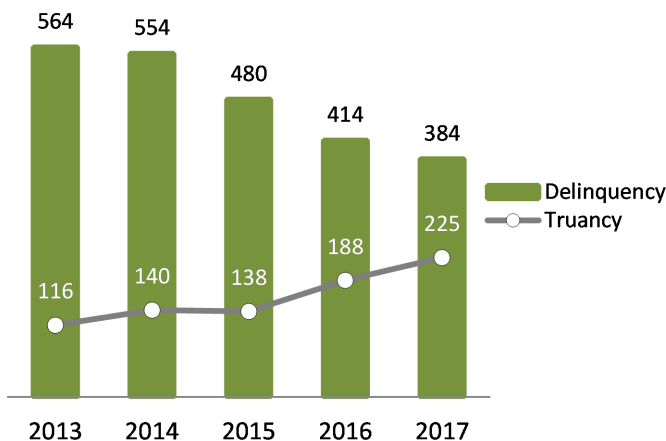


2017 Referrals

JCI

- The number of delinquency referrals received by Juvenile Court Intake has steadily declined over the past five years - down by over **32%** and just over **7%** between 2016 and 2017.
- Referrals for habitual truancy have increased by **94%** during the same time period - the largest annual increase occurred between 2015 and 2016 (**36%**).
- In 2013, truancy referrals accounted to **17%** of total referrals—in 2017 the percentage was **37%**.

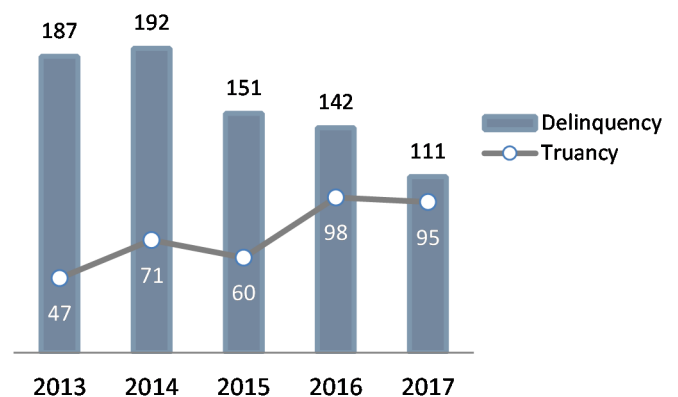
Number of Delinquency and Truancy Referrals - JCI



DCFS

- The number of delinquency referrals decreased by nearly **22%** in 2017. Over the past 5 years the number has decreased by just over **40%**.
- Truancy referrals have increased during the same time period (**102%**), with the biggest jump between 2015 and 2016 (**63%**).
- Truancy accounted for **46%** of referrals in 2017, compared to **20%** in 2013.

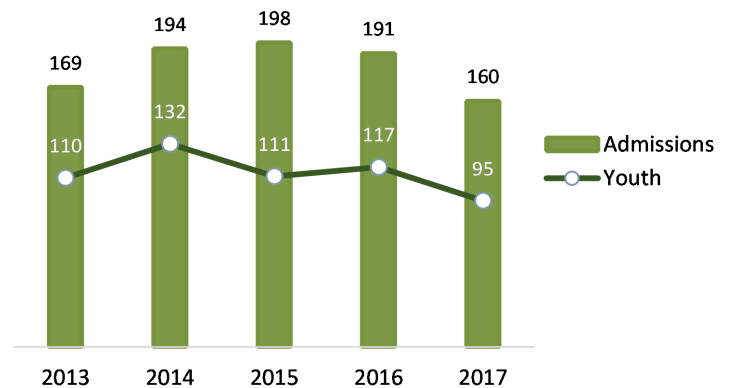
Number of Delinquency and Truancy Referrals - DCFS



Secure Detention

- In 2017, the number of youth placed in secure detention decreased by nearly **19%** to 95—a five-year low.
- The number of admissions - youth may be placed in detention more than once - decreased by just over **16%** to 160 - also a five-year low.
- In 2017, **44%** of youth (n=42) were placed in secure detention at least two times - up from **38%** in 2015.
- The majority of youth placed in secure detention were minority—**68%** Black and **11%** Hispanic.
- The average length of stay in secure detention was **15.2** days, up from **10.9** days in 2016 (+**39%**).

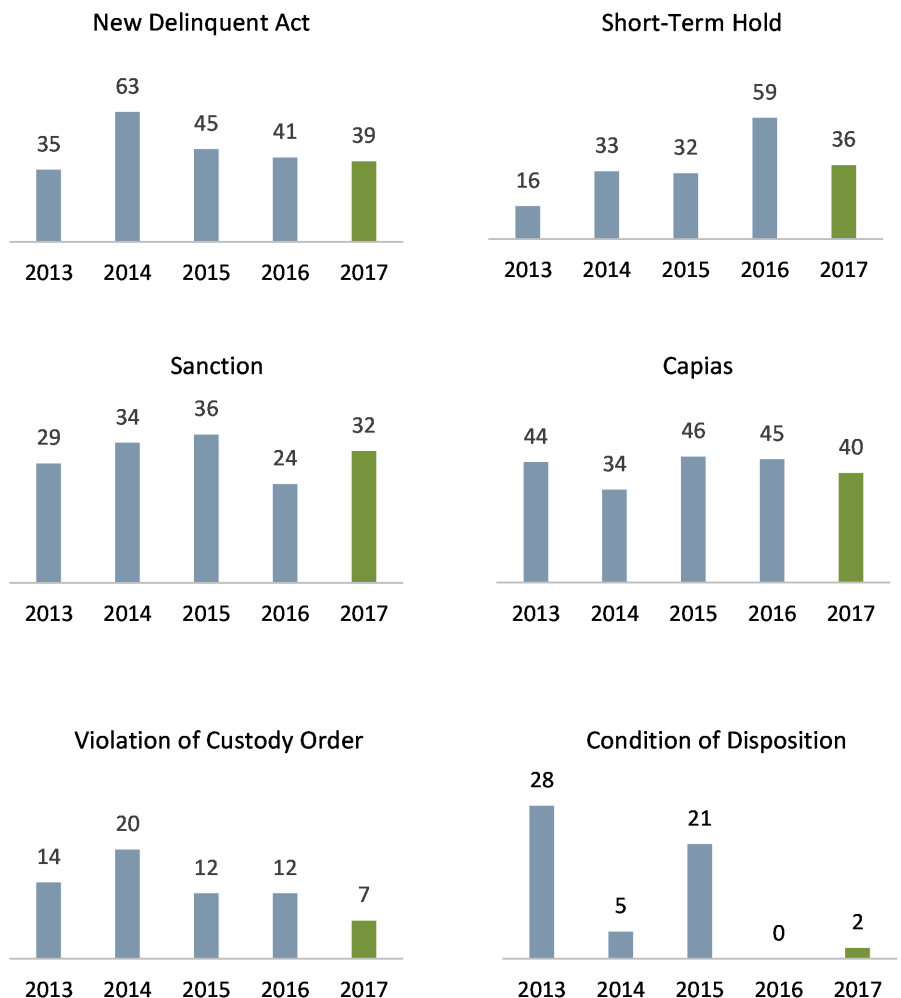
Number of Admissions to Secure Detention
Number of Delinquent Youth Placed in Secure Detention



The number of admissions to secure detention dropped to **160** in 2017 – a **16%** decrease from 2016 and also a five-year low. There were some differences based on the reason for placement (see charts below):

- Reasons for placement that decreased more included short-term holds (**-39%**) and violation of custody orders (**-42%**).
- New delinquent acts and capias decreased at a lower rate compared to admissions overall (**-5%** and **-11%**, respectively).
- Females accounted for **34%** of youth placed in secure detention overall compared to **15%** of placements due to new delinquent acts. They were more likely to be placed for a capias (**48%**) or short-term holds (**42%**).

Reasons for Secure Detention Admissions

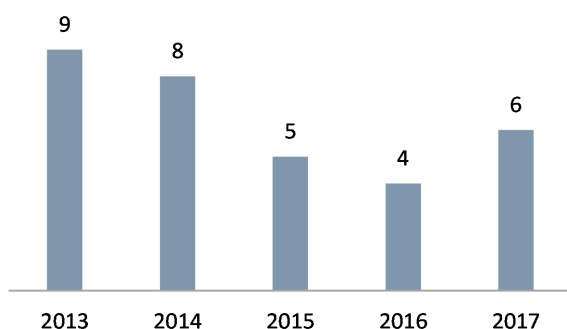


Out-of-Home Placements

Temporary placement with a foster family is considered the least restrictive of out-of-home placements.

- After a three-year consecutive decrease, the number of youth placed in foster care increased by **25%**.
- Females are more likely to be placed in foster care (**61%**).
- Median length of stay for youth discharged from care between 2013 and 2017 was **82** days.

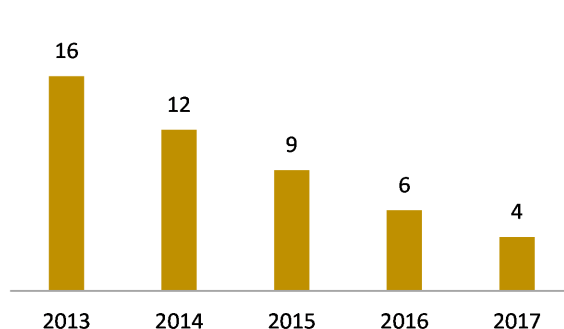
Number of Delinquent Youth Placed in Regular Foster Care



Treatment foster parents receive a higher level of training to work with youth that require a more intensive level of care.

- The number of youth placed in treatment foster care has decreased steadily in the past five years—down **75%** since 2013.
- Median length of stay for youth discharged from care between 2013 and 2017 was **225** days.
- Females were more likely to be placed in treatment foster care (**46%**).

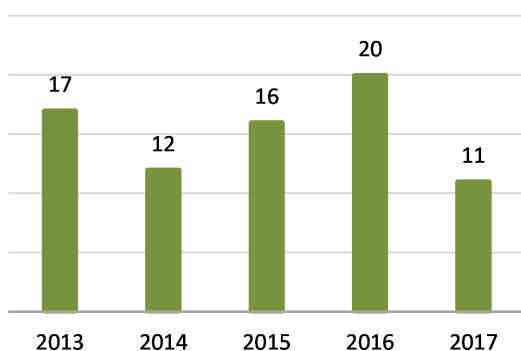
Number of Delinquent Youth Placed in Treatment Foster Care



Group homes provide a structured living environment along with a variety of services to meet adolescent behavior modification needs, including cognitive intervention groups and individual therapy.

- As shown in the chart below, between 2014 and 2016 the number of delinquent youth placed in group homes increased by nearly **67%**.
- In 2017, the number of group home placements decreased by **45%** to a five-year low of 11.
- A large percentage of youth placed are minority (**71%**) and male (**79%**).

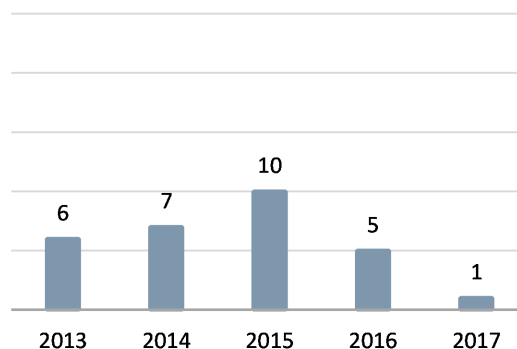
Number of Delinquent Youth Placed in Group Homes



Residential care centers (RCCs) provide highly structured settings where youth receive intensive counseling and therapy. Youth placed in RCCs generally have significant mental health treatment needs.

- In the past five years, the number of delinquent youth placed in a residential care center reached a high of **10** in 2015 to a low of 1 in 2017.
- Males are more likely to be placed in an RCC (**72%**) and over half were White, based on discharges between 2013 and 2017(**52%**).
- The median length of stay was **164** days.

Number of Delinquent Youth Placed in Residential Care Centers

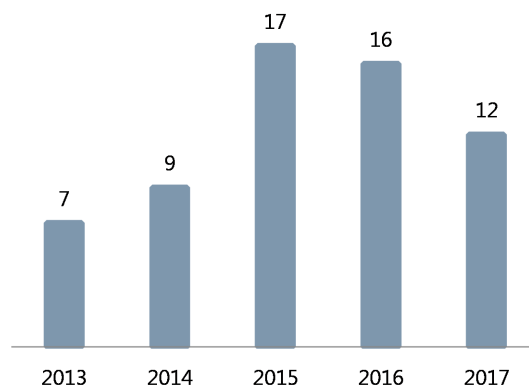


Out-of-Home Placements

Alternatives to Corrections through Education (ACE) provides direct services in a secure facility located in Racine County for youth that are adjudicated delinquent. Program components include weekly family meetings, psychiatric care and furloughs to home and school as a transition tool. Youth also receive treatment programming and are able to earn school credits at a fast pace.

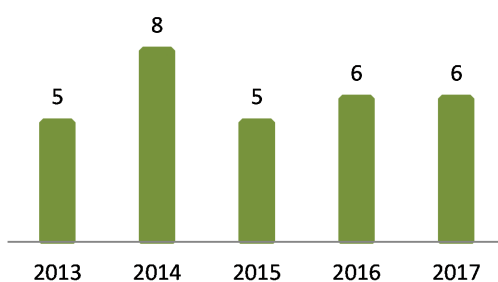
- After increasing nearly 89% between 2014 and 2015, the number of youth placed in ACE has decreased for two consecutive years, down **33%** to 12 youth in 2017 (see chart at right).
- Most youth were male (**58%**; n=7) and African American (**75%**; n=9).
- A total of **25%** were 14 years of age or younger at placement (n=3) - down from **50%** in 2016.
- The majority of youth placed in Alternatives to Corrections through Education were charged with felonies (n=10; **83%**). Two youth with only misdemeanors were previously adjudicated delinquent.
- Youth discharged from the ACE program in 2017 (n=11) earned an average of 3.0 school credits. One youth was middle school and unable to earn high school credits.
- The median length of stay for youth discharged in 2017 was **130** days, unchanged from youth leaving the ACE Program in 2016.
- Of the 11 cases discharged from the program in 2017, 9 have remained out of the juvenile and adult system (**82%**).

Number of Youth Placed in ACE Program



- Six youth were placed in juvenile corrections in 2017 – unchanged from 2016.
- Four of the six youth were male (**67%**) and all were African American.
- Two of the six youth (**33%**) were 14 years of age at the time of placement – unchanged from 2016.
- Five of the six youth (**83%**) were charged with felonies; one youth who committed misdemeanors had previous delinquency adjudications.
- The median length of stay for youth discharged from corrections in 2017 was **192** days.
- Youth earned an average of **0.9** school credits while in corrections. One youth was in middle school and unable to earn high school credits.
- Three of the six youth discharged in 2017 have remained out of the juvenile and adult systems (**50%**).

Number of Youth Placed in Corrections



Juvenile Corrections

- There were 33 youth placed in corrections in 2005, the first year of the Youth Justice report.
- After increasing to 36 youth in 2006, the number of youth placed in corrections has decreased by 83% to 6 in 2017.
- The number of youth placed in corrections has not exceeded 8 youth since 2012.

Statewide Trends

The average daily population of Wisconsin juvenile correctional facilities has also decreased since this report was first published - down 65% between 2005 and 2016 (639 to 222 youth).

Elementary School Truancy Reduction Program

Prevention Services Network provides truancy reduction services to parents and children through voluntary participation in the Elementary School Truancy Reduction Program. This program provides services to all the elementary schools in KUSD by providing support and services to families and engaging parents in their child's education to reduce truancy and promote educational success. Staff members work with parents to identify barriers to attendance and to develop individualized interventions to address the needs of the family. This program incorporates daily attendance checks, home visits, school outreach, and incentives for students and family as well as family-based activities into the overall program structure to increase student success and prevent truancy.

Middle and High School Youth Outreach Programs

The Youth Outreach Programs at both the Middle and High School levels address the needs of youth who are adjudicated delinquent or under a deferred prosecution agreement. The Youth Outreach Programs work in conjunction with the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) to improve daily school attendance, performance and positive behavior. The youth and families served in the Youth Outreach Programs receive community-based services to mitigate barriers to daily school attendance, performance and behavior with the primary focus in reducing school truancy and building positive youth competencies.

The Youth Outreach Programs offer a strength-based, multi-systemic approach by addressing the following areas: youth relationship and skill building, communication with students, teachers and parents regarding academic progress, facilitation of community volunteer experiences and curriculum tasks, and parent involvement in the school through coaching/education and support.

Strategies to achieve daily school attendance include strengthening communication between home, school and community, development of individualized plans to motivate youth and families, mentoring and advocacy.

Elementary

- **72%** were not habitually truant one year after case closure (goal 70%).
- **88%** were not habitually truant 6 months after case closure (goal—75%).
- **83%** of the case closures were successful.

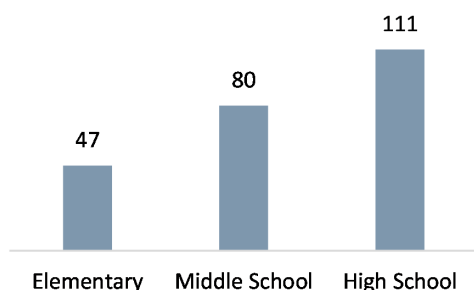
Middle School

- **76%** enrolled in regular coursework improved their GPA (goal—80%)
- **67%** of youth decreased out-of-school suspensions (goal—80%)
- **87%** were not referred to Juvenile Intake for a new offense 6 months after case closure (goal—80%)
- **72%** improved their attendance (goal—80%).

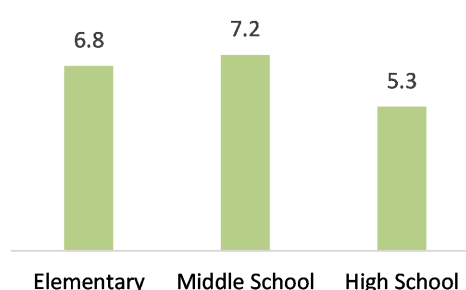
High School

- **88%** enrolled in regular coursework improved their GPA (goal—80%)
- **82%** of youth decreased out-of-school suspensions (goal—80%)
- **87%** were not referred to Juvenile Intake for a new offense 6 months after case closure (goal—80%)
- **82%** improved their attendance (goal—80%).

Number of Students Served - 2017



Average Length of Participation (Months)



Gang Diversion Program

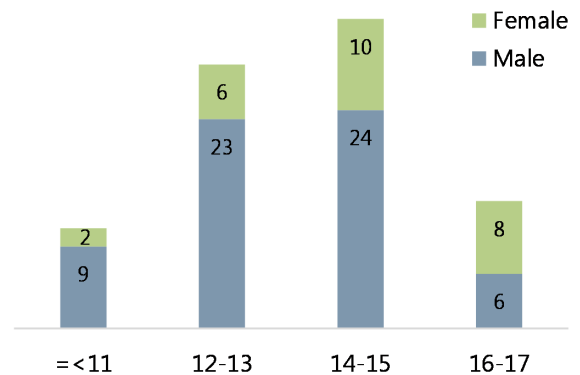
The Kenosha County Gang Diversion Program is implemented by Community Impact Programs and the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha, providing a variety of programs and services to meet the needs of the participants and neighborhoods they serve. The agencies work separately to conduct programming, but also collaborate with each other on special projects. The project served a total of **88** youth in 2017. The program is focused on prevention: **75%** of the participants had no history of juvenile court involvement and **56%** of the referrals were from the schools.

The program continues to be successful in creating change through the use of educational and incentive-based programming. Examples of incentive-based activities include family events such as game night and holiday dinners, Milwaukee Brewer games, Back-to-School Event, National Night Out, and seasonal sports such as basketball, football, and wrestling, garden projects, arts and crafts, and trips to the YMCA.

The majority of youth are between 12 and 15 years of age (see chart at right). Most youth that participate in the program are male (see chart below), although the percentage of female participants increased to 30%, up from 10% in 2016.

The integration of employment skills building has also been effective. Examples of activities include job search training, resume building, college visits, organizing employment searches and job interviews through partnership with Six Flags Great America, a Summer Employment Job Fair, and referrals to the Summer Youth Employment Program.

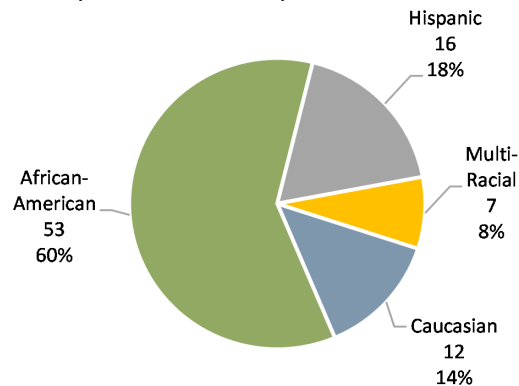
Number of Youth Served by Age & Gender



Participant Gender



Participant Race/Ethnicity



Outcomes	Indicator	Progress
Increase or maintain pro-social behavior	Participants will not be adjudicated delinquent for a new offense while in the program.	83 of 88 (94%)
Increase participation in non-gang related activities	Participants will actively participate in at least four program activities per month.	44 of 53 (83%)
Parents/Families will increase involvement in youth care	Parents/families will participate in at least 2 group or one-on-one educational activities per quarter.	24 of 53 (45%)
No increase in gang risk score	Participants that complete the program will reduce or maintain their gang risk score.	49 of 53 (92%)
Improve school attendance	Participants that complete the program will improve their academic attendance.	43 of 53 (81%)
Improve school performance	Participants that complete the program will improve their academic performance.	26 of 44 (59%)

Summer Youth Employment Program

September 2017 marked the end of the eighth annual Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) for youth ages 14 to 21. A total of **243** of the community's highest risk youth developed employment skills and gained valuable work experience. This program represents a successful public-private partnership between Kenosha County, the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha, Community Impact Programs, the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) and many community businesses.

Youth learn the value of work, the importance of being on time, appropriate dress for their job, how to manage their money, the ability to follow directions, and the pride of being paid for an honest day's work. Youth worked 20 hours per week for eight weeks at **36** work sites throughout the County. A total of **108** youth still in school received 1/2 credit towards graduation from KUSD. Using the skills and experience gained in the program, **53** participants obtained unsubsidized employment after the program ended—the highest number since the program began in 2009.



Antonio Rollins, an incoming sophomore at Bradford High School, shows off a school logo that he painted while working in the Youth Employment in the Arts Program as a part of Kenosha County's Summer Youth Employment Program.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Youth	296	214	191	210	204	247	225	206	243
Number of Job Sites	45	49	42	41	42	39	34	38	36
Number Obtaining Unsubsidized Employment	33	13	21	24	17	37	26	33	53
Number Earning 1/2 credit toward graduation	116	113	106	121	116	124	108	113	108

Areas of Work Experience:

- Landscaping
- Food Preparation
- Hair Stylist
- Construction
- Customer Service
- Sales
- Child Care
- Custodian
- Elder Care
- Receptionist
- Factory Labor
- Warehouse Management



A 2009/10 program participant opened the Sugar Boxx, an ice cream shop located in downtown Kenosha. He became a SYEP worksite in 2017 and employed eight youth.

2017 Partners and Stakeholders

Juvenile Court Intake Staff
DCFS-Court Services Unit Staff

Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community
Community Impact Programs
Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services
Kenosha County Schools
Kenosha Human Development Services
Kenosha Unified School District
One Hope United
Prevention Services Network
Professional Services Group

Electronic versions of the Juvenile Justice Reports are located on the Kenosha County Department of Human Services web page.

kenoshacounty.org

Departments > Human > Divisions > Children & Family Services

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