



Juvenile Probation Services Annual Report

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

**fiscal year
2022**



STATE OF
NEBRASKA
JUDICIAL BRANCH

Administrative Office
of the Courts & Probation



Dear Stakeholders:

The Juvenile Probation Services Division has continued work on the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Nebraska (JISEN), much of this time focused on the review phase. I am so grateful to all of the system partners who have demonstrated the passion and courage to undertake examination and analysis to improve system performance and youth outcomes. While these outcomes are our top priority, another essential element of this review involves assessment of the data points we collect and measure.

Through the enhancement work, we were introduced to the Fundamental Measures for Juvenile Justice (FMJJ). The FMJJ were developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice and were intended to serve a standardized template in order for juvenile justice jurisdictions to improve data collection, use, and analysis. This is something that the juvenile justice field has needed for decades. Therefore, it only makes sense to begin highlighting the FMJJ data elements that are currently available in Nebraska, while continuing to work towards capturing others. This year, you will see FMJJ highlighted in this publication and noted with the yellow starburst above. For additional information or exploration of the fundamental measures, follow this hyperlink:

<https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/resources/fundamental-measures-juvenile-justice>.

I look forward to finalizing our JISEN review phase and moving towards prioritizing recommendations for implementation!

Jeanne K. Brandner



Jeanne K. Brandner
Deputy Administrator
Juvenile Probation
Services Division



Juvenile Probation Outcomes

The goal of juvenile probation in Nebraska is to prevent juveniles from returning to the juvenile justice system or entering the adult criminal justice system by:

- Engaging juveniles and their families in the court process;
- Eliminating barriers to accessing effective treatment and services; and
- Partnering with educational and community stakeholders.

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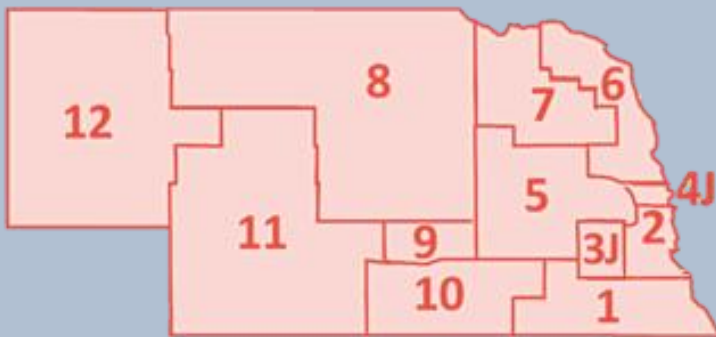
Nebraska State Probation Vision:

Be a nationally recognized leader in the field of justice committed to excellence and safe communities.

Nebraska State Probation Mission:

We, the leaders in community corrections, juvenile, and restorative justice, are unified in our dedication to delivering a system of seamless services which are founded on evidence-based practices and valued by Nebraska's communities, victims, offenders and courts. We create constructive change through rehabilitation, collaboration, and partnership in order to enhance safe communities.

Map of Juvenile Probation Districts



This map includes the judicial probation districts across the state of Nebraska covering all 93 counties.

For more information about probation districts, visit:

<https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/probation/districts>

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Juvenile Justice System Enhancement

Juvenile Justice System Enhancement



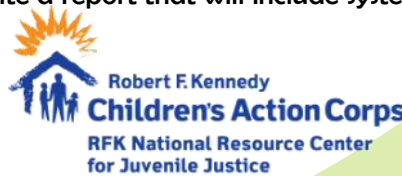
Nebraska

Juvenile Justice System Enhancement ~ Nebraska (JJSEN) is funded through a three-year grant awarded to the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation (AOCP) by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP). There are two distinct parts to JJSEN: a system review, followed by implementation support of the recommendations from the review. This year, the first year of JJSEN, focused efforts on a youth justice system review by four national technical assistance partners.

John Tuell, Executive Director (pictured), and Michelle Darling, Senior Director and Consultant, conducted three Probation System Review (PSR) site visits that occurred during this fiscal year. The PSR process brought together juvenile justice stakeholders from across the state of Nebraska in order to gain understanding of current practices. The Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice will use the gathered information to write a report that will include system enhancement recommendations.



John Tuell speaking at one of the System Assessment Site visits



NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Hunter Hurst and Gene Siegel, Senior Research Associates, conducted a Data Capacity System Assessment (DCSA). The DCSA included two site visits and several virtual interviews to gather information regarding data capacity and juvenile probation's ability to track and report the Fundamental Measures for Juvenile Justice. The National Center for Juvenile Justice NCJJ will use the gathered information to write a report that will include recommendations and opportunities to enhance data captured, reported, and youth outcomes.



Dr. Robin Jenkins (left) and Dr. Renée Boothroyd (right), Senior Implementation Specialists at The Impact Center, are providing education and practical application of Implementation Science for leaders in Nebraska Probation. Through their support, the formation of new leadership teams are developed to support improved communication, leadership skills and system readiness to successfully implement changes.

Dr. Keith Cruise of the National Youth Screening Assessment Partners, has provided support to a behavioral health screening implementation team, which includes a member from all twelve juvenile probation districts. The implementation team has completed process mapping, researched and selected a trauma screening tool, and began planning each stage of implementation.



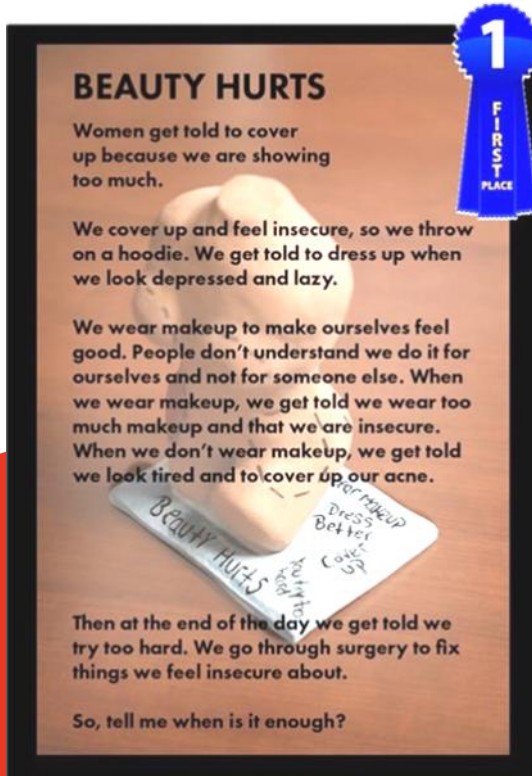


Juvenile Probation Encourages Youth Creativity With Annual Artwork Contest

Juvenile Probation started an annual Artwork Contest in 2016 to encourage youth throughout the state to express themselves by telling the story of their journey through creativity.

Probation officers were asked to encourage the youth they supervise to create artwork for the contest. All forms of art are accepted. This year, two new forms of artwork were submitted: clay and digital photography. Nineteen entries were received from across the state. The results were moving and inspiring.

Submissions are highlighted throughout this report and displayed in the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, Juvenile Probation Services Division office.



MeKayla from Kearney created the first-ever clay piece to win 1st place depicting her opinions about beauty.

Cambry from Lincoln created this colorful drawing with watercolors that won 2nd place.



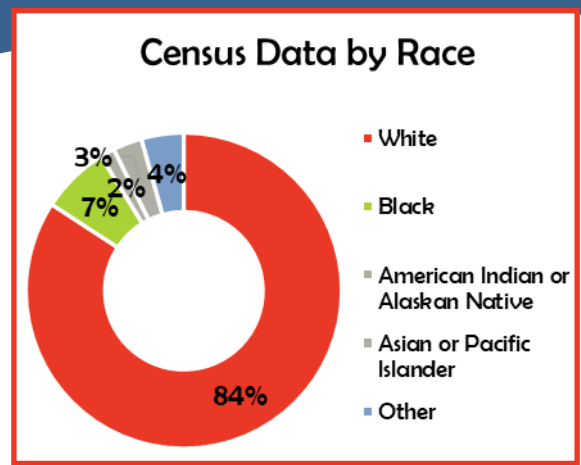
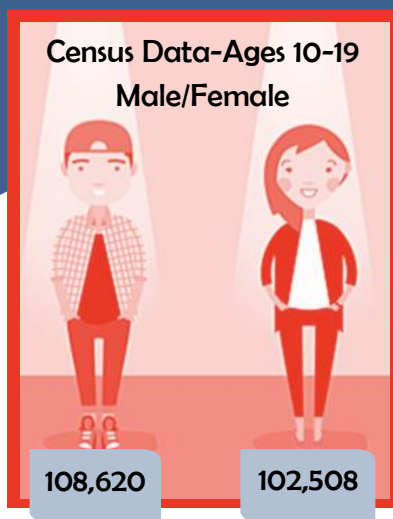
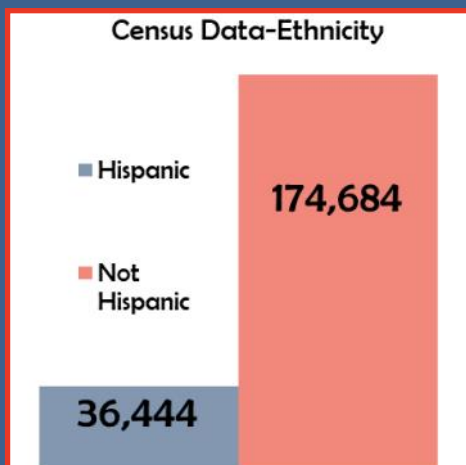


Initial Entry of Juvenile Probation

1.01
Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

Total Youth Census Population:

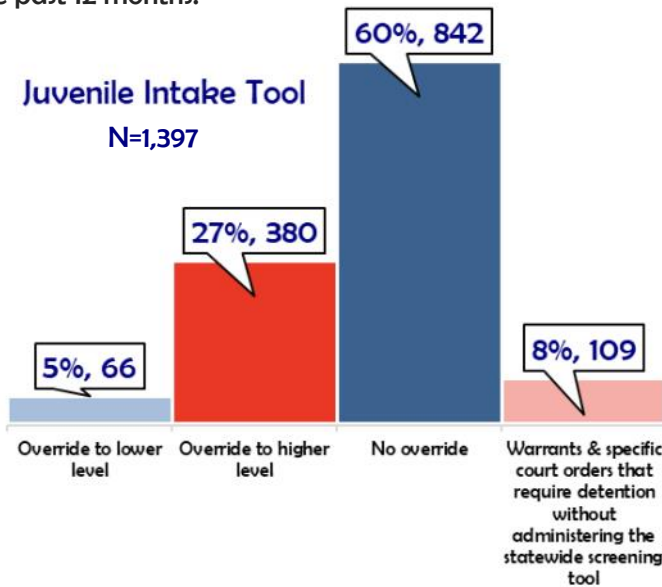
Represented below are the number of youth in Nebraska's population base within age boundaries of juvenile court jurisdiction. These youth represent original juvenile court jurisdiction in Nebraska, which is ages 11-17, although 2020 Nebraska census data represented below includes 10 year-olds.



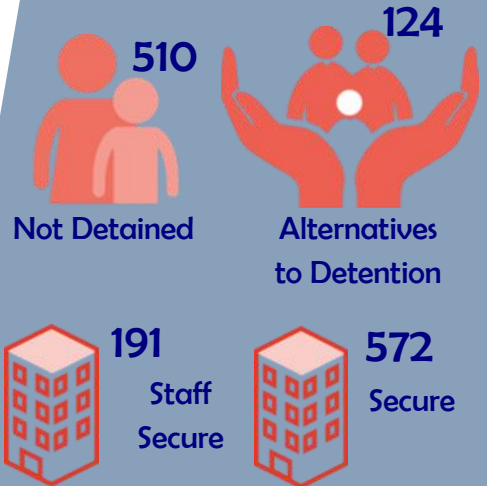


Juvenile Intake

Nebraska State Statutes § 43-250 & 43-260 authorize probation to manage the juvenile intake function. The goal of juvenile intake is to promote the most appropriate detention decision that is least restrictive while balancing safety of the community. This is accomplished through a standardized risk assessment tool that is administered when law enforcement contacts probation for the purpose of determining an intake decision. The detention screening instrument examines the youth's risk to persons within the community and history of documented willful failure to appear at a scheduled court hearing within the past 12 months.



Juvenile Intake Decisions



The year 2021 marked the 10-year anniversary of Nebraska's involvement with Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation, along with local JDAI sites, celebrated 10-years of JDAI work in Nebraska. There are four JDAI sites: Douglas, Sarpy, Otoe, and Lancaster. Hall County is currently engaged in a system assessment and detention utilization study.

The work done in the local JDAI sites has allowed for youth to return to their community while balancing community safety. JDAI promotes positive youth development and the strengthening of parental support, often leading to cost savings. The program is designed to provide a path for youth to become productive adults.

The Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, Michael G. Heavican, held a kickoff with a proclamation signing ceremony commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Nebraska's JDAI work. Each county held their own collaborative celebrations. Thanks to all the staff and stakeholders who have made JDAI successful in Nebraska.

Juvenile intake tool overrides occur when there are special circumstances that a probation officer considers to authorize a higher or lower intervention than recommended by the intake tool. Overrides are utilized to ensure community safety while utilizing the least restrictive options available and must be approved by a supervisor.

Population



The demographic information below reflects youth placed on probation for delinquent and status-related offenses. There were 2,125 youth placed on probation during the fiscal year. A status youth comes before the court for non-delinquent offenses such as truancy, running away, or other behaviors that a parent is not able to control. Beginning July 1, 2017, youth who are ten years of age and under at the time of a traffic, infraction, status, misdemeanor, or felony offense is alleged, are no longer eligible for juvenile probation. The total number of youth placed on probation increased by 8.5% as compared to FY 2021.

Youth Placed on Probation Male/Female



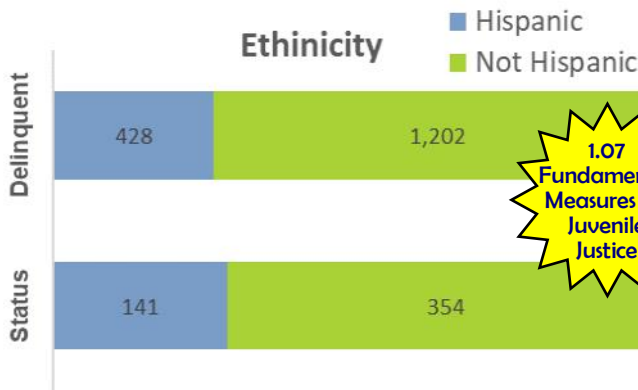
1,197 Delinquent
& 266 Status

433 Delinquent
& 229 Status

1.07
Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

Youth Placed on Probation by Age

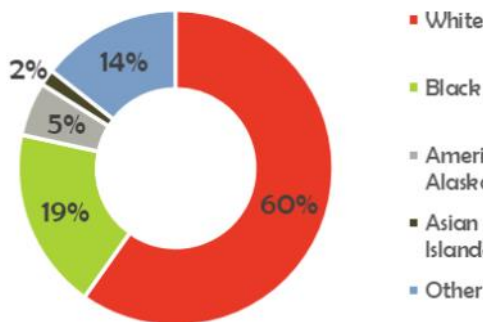
Age	Delinquent	Status	Total
11	5	1	6
12	42	14	56
13	133	32	165
14	204	59	263
15	311	100	411
16	370	154	524
17	423	115	538
18	142	20	162
Total	1,630	495	2,125



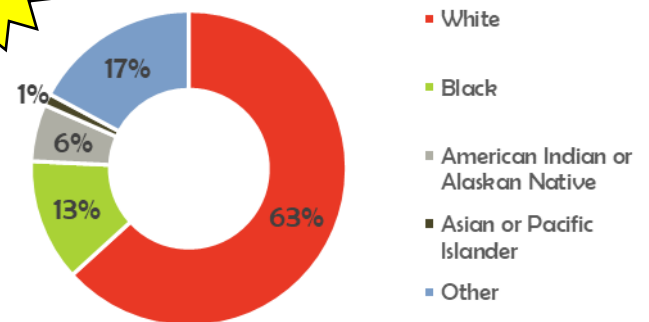
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Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

Youth Placed on Probation by Race

Delinquent



Status Offense



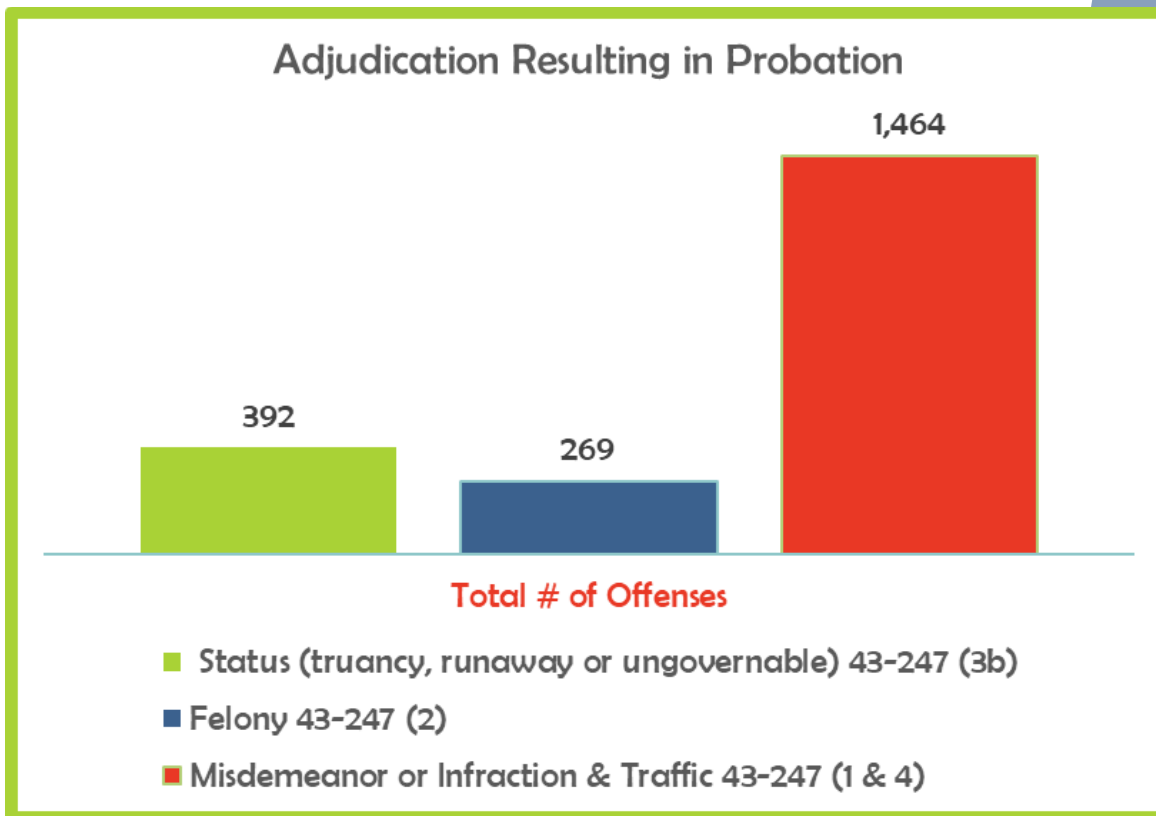
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Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice



Adjudication

The Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation has oversight over youth who are subject to supervision by a probation officer and have been adjudicated under one or more of the following subdivisions of Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-247 (1), (2), (3b) and (4). Adjudication is the fact-finding phase of a juvenile case in which a judge receives and weighs evidence before determining whether a delinquency or status offense has been proven.

Each subdivision refers to the offense type that brought the youth before the court. The chart below identifies the percentage of youth who were adjudicated in each category; some were for multiple offenses. The majority of youth placed on probation were adjudicated under subdivision (1) for offenses which are considered a misdemeanor or infraction.

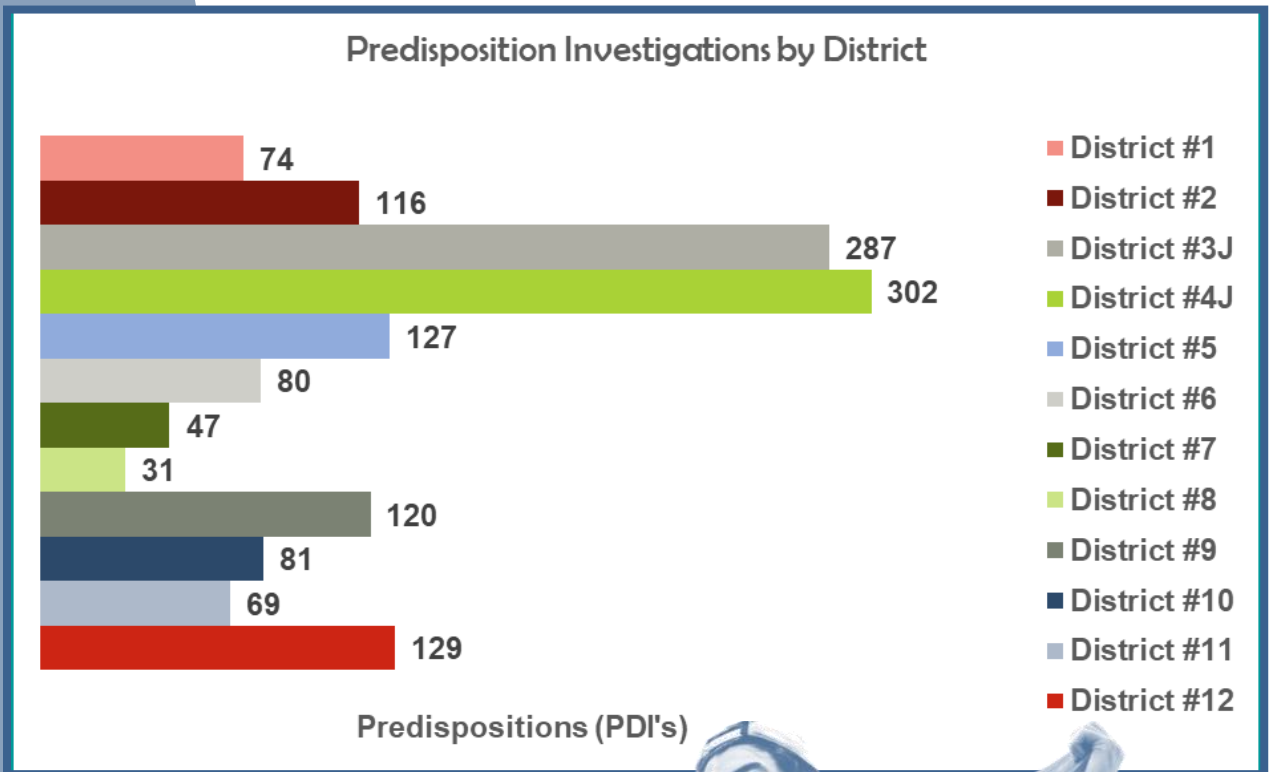


Of the 392 status offenses in fiscal year 2022, 94% were for truancy, which was 19% more than fiscal year 2021

Investigation



Probation is responsible for completion of comprehensive investigations, also known as predisposition investigations (PDI). Investigations include: interviews with the youth and family, collateral contacts, validated risk/need/responsivity assessments, screening tools, available treatment reports, and/or evaluations. The investigation and recommendations target the youth's risk, needs, and responsivity, as well as the supervision and services that will be most effective in reducing the juvenile's risk for continued delinquent behaviors. The total number of PDI's for fiscal year 2022 was 1,463, which is up 23% from fiscal year 2021.





Risk/Need/Responsivity Assessment

Initial Criminogenic Risk Assessment Category

Probation staff are trained and utilize the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI 2.0), which is a gender-informed, culturally-informed, strengths-focused risk/needs/responsivity assessment tool. The YLS/CMI 2.0 reliably and accurately classifies and predicts the possibility of continued delinquent acts, which supports a probation officer's case management priorities.

LOW

28%

Percentage of youth placed on probation that were assessed as low risk using the YLS/CMI 2.0 for continued unlawful behavior

Up 1% from FY 2021

MODERATE

60%

Percentage of youth placed on probation that were assessed at moderate risk using the YLS/CMI 2.0 for continued unlawful behavior

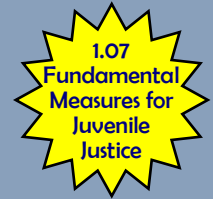
Down 4% from FY 2021

HIGH/VERY HIGH

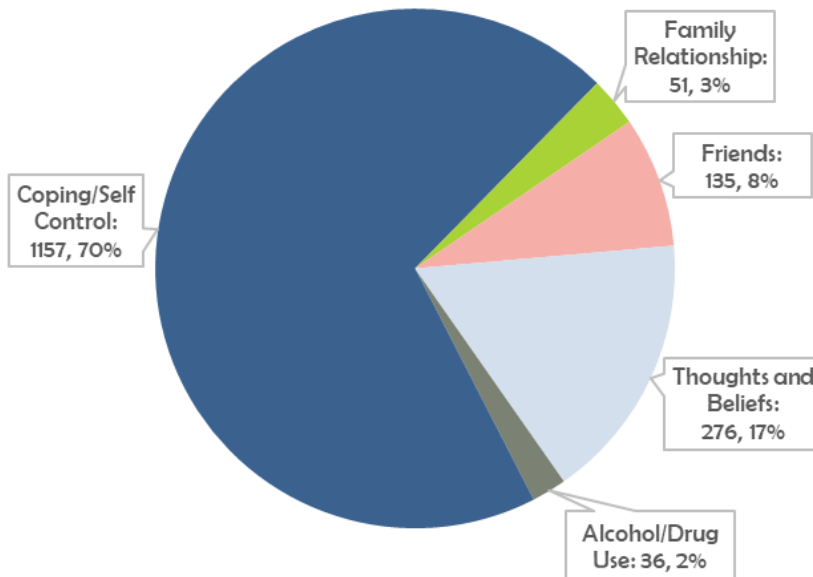
12%

Percentage of youth placed on probation that were assessed at high or very high risk using the YLS/CMI 2.0 for continued unlawful behavior

Up 3% from FY 2021



Drivers Identified on Success Plans



The YLS/CMI 2.0 measures 8 key areas:

- prior and current offenses/ dispositions
- education/employment
- substance abuse
- personality/behavior
- family circumstances/parenting;
- peer relations
- leisure/recreation
- attitudes/orientation

Determining the "Driver"

Determining the single most influential criminogenic risk factor or "driver" is essential to risk reduction as not all criminogenic risks influence behavior equally. The "driver" is used to focus case management and create a Success Plan for targeting behavior change.

SPOTLIGHT

“Rising Star” Award Recipient



Cassie Macke has always had a passion for youth and helping them realize their purpose. She took the opportunity to join juvenile probation in 3J as a secretary in August of 2018 and in two years promoted to office manager.

Showing tremendous leadership, Cassie supervises a team of eight support staff. She has worked hard to build a strong culture within the unit. The success is evidenced by the fact that five of the eight have moved up to senior secretaries.

She also supports all staff in 3J by helping with timecards, leave requests, and technology related needs. Additionally, Cassie plays a large role in welcoming, on-boarding, and setting up all new employees.

Plus, Cassie has taken on additional responsibilities and is a vital team member of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice (RFKNRCJJ) work in district 3J.

District 3J is a JDAI site and data compilation is fundamental to this work. Lancaster County Human Services did not have staff to manage the Quarterly Review System (QRS), a data report for JDAI sites, and Cassie stepped up and took on the responsibility of managing this fundamental data report.

In regards to the RFKNRCJJ initiative in the district, Cassie leads and supports several responsibilities. These include, serving as the co-leader of the workgroup created to enhance case closure documentation. In this role, she organizes and facilitates meetings in addition to monitoring and using data to determine next steps for the workgroup.

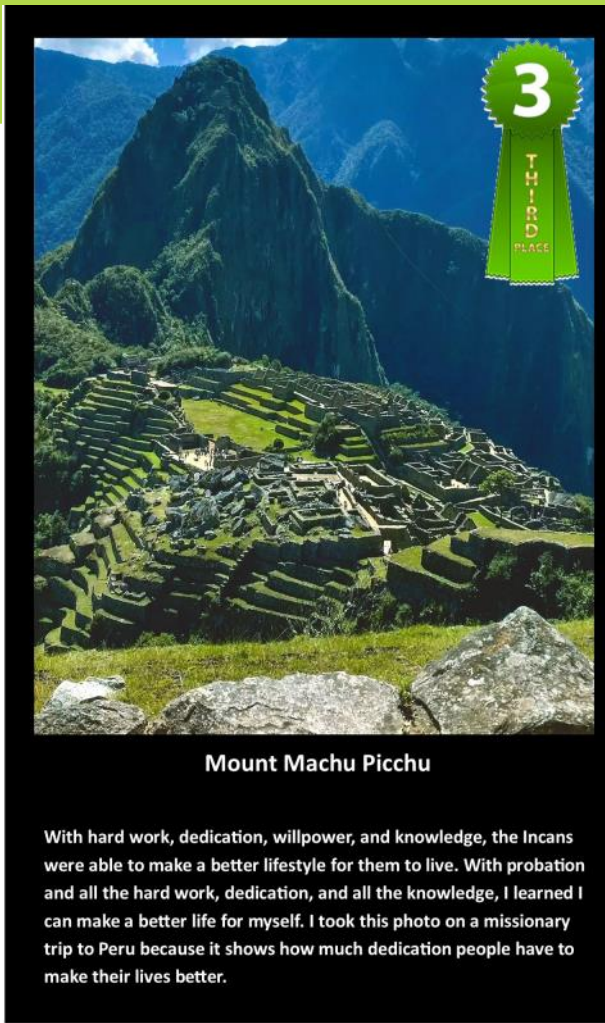
Cassie provides support to two other RFKNRCJJ workgroups, detention utilization and family engagement. She took on a special project for the family engagement workgroup where she sends out informational brochures to youth and families prior to their initial hearing. This information helps families better understand the probation process. Cassie also receives the

quarterly youth and family survey report and ensures distribution to the management team.

Finally, Cassie took on a leadership role with the tangible incentives program in 3J and has worked to ensure the program is functioning successfully. Together with the chief, they recreated the check-out system to include more oversight and accountability. Limits were added to which staff had direct access to the incentives and monthly counts were done. Slowly, the program turned around. This resulted in youth on probation being able to receive a tangible incentive when they are making positive progress toward successful completion of probation.

All of these characteristics are why Cassie was presented the “Rising Star” Award in April of 2022 as an active member of the district management team who is motivated to make a positive impact to move our system forward.

2022 Artwork Contest Winners



Mount Machu Picchu

With hard work, dedication, willpower, and knowledge, the Incans were able to make a better lifestyle for them to live. With probation and all the hard work, dedication, and all the knowledge, I learned I can make a better life for myself. I took this photo on a missionary trip to Peru because it shows how much dedication people have to make their lives better.

This year, there was a two-way tie for third place

Bryce from Omaha took this digital photo from his trip to Mount Machu Picchu and earned third place with the explanation of how it applies to his journey.



Destina from Kearney created this colorful oil painting winning her 3rd place.



Total Youth Served by Juvenile Probation

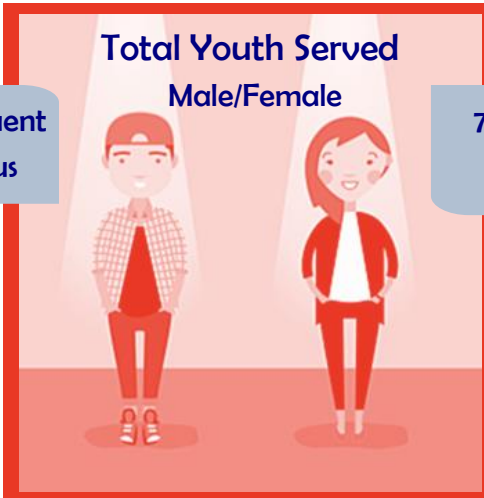


Population

In this section, all data represents the total population of youth actively supervised on probation which includes youth already on probation from the previous year. There were 3,591 youth served during this fiscal year. The table below shows demographic data for the population of youth served by probation separated by delinquent and status-related offenses. The total number of youth served on probation reduced by less than 1% as compared to FY 2021.

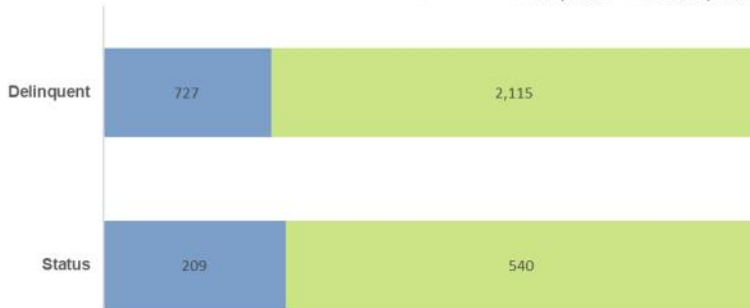
Total Youth Served Male/Female

2,054 Delinquent
& 402 Status



788 Delinquent
& 347 Status

Ethnicity

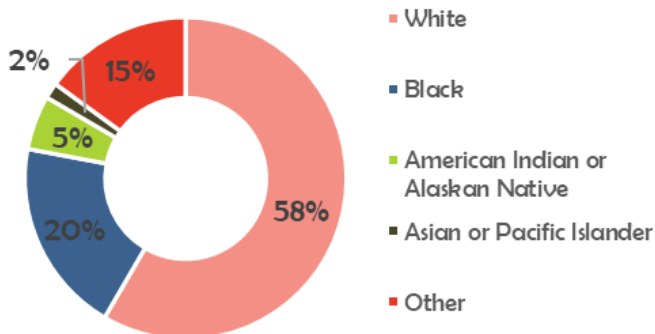


Total Youth Served by Age

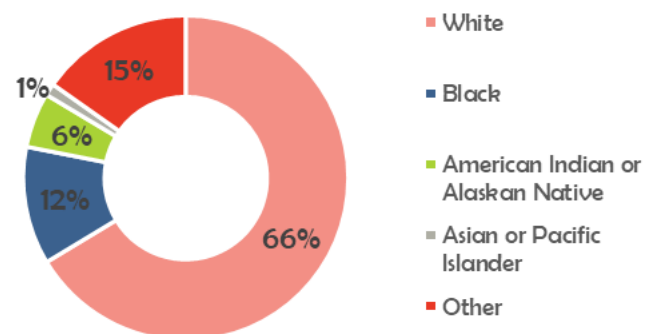
Age of	Delinquent	Status	Total
11	11	3	14
12	67	23	90
13	236	49	285
14	394	106	500
15	596	161	757
16	703	222	925
17	677	161	838
18	158	24	182
Total	2,842	749	3,591

Total Youth Served by Race

Delinquent



Status Offense



Case Management



NE-ART Training

Fiscal Year



Nebraska-Aggression Replacement Training, also referred to as NE-ART, is a cognitive restructuring, eight-week curriculum for youth assessed with the YLS/CMI as moderate and high-risk. The curriculum focuses on the demonstration, repetition, and practice of learning new skills which support supervision through targeting the youths "Driver" and success plan goals. Completion of this program gives youth the ability to transfer the curriculum learned into real world situations. In turn, they will have the ability to not repeat actions, which potentially led them to become involved in the court system.

NE-ART curriculum has three primary modules that are focused on each week: social skills, traps and traits, and self-control. Through demonstration, repetitions, and skill practice of these modules, probation youth learn skills which help them handle situations they find themselves in on a daily basis. In 2022, a total of 127 probation officers completed either booster or new facilitator training.

NE-ART is an excellent way to build relationships between probation officers and youth. Positive stories have been shared by juvenile court judges who have observed encouraging changes in youth they have had in their courtroom. Judges have also attended NE-ART graduation functions. After completion, the youth are excited to share the positive way thinking behaviors have changed for them.

Youth who successfully graduated from the 8-week curriculum

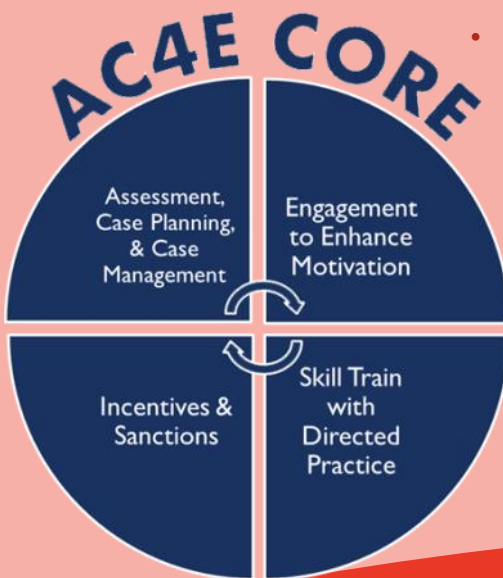
Comments From Youth

What did you learn about yourself that you didn't already know?

- I can stay calm
- I forget to take a deep breath before I react
- I need to regulate emotions
- That when I get angry, I don't give myself enough time to think
- That I can calm down faster

Would you recommend this group to others?

- Yes, it helps with self-control
- Yes, I feel the group covered a lot of things that are impacts in kids' lives
- Yes, because it teaches important skills



AC4E Training

Advanced Coaching for Excellence (AC4E) launched in 2017 and focuses on the four core elements shown in the diagram on the left. In fiscal year 2022, the *Engagement to Enhance Motivation* core was the focus. During the planning stage, it was identified that this curriculum needed to boost skills in procedural justice, as well as supporting current research, which suggests relationships are key to risk/need/responsivity and successful probation completion.

In partnership with Hasan Davis, Founder and Director of Hasan Davis Solutions, Inc., a curriculum was created titled "HOPE" which stands for Humanity, Optimism, Perspective, and Empathy. The curriculum was trained to every staff position as enhancing engagement skills is essential to working with individuals we serve in the probation system every day.



RISE Program



Case Management

The Recognizing Increased Skills in Education (RISE) program, implemented in 2007, is a grant-funded AmeriCorps program which allows probation to place AmeriCorps members, titled “RISE program specialists,” in nine probation offices. RISE program specialists are responsible for organizing and facilitating a skill-based curriculum to adjudicated youth, which includes five chapters; goal setting, motivation, organization, class participation/study skills and test taking. When youth successfully complete all chapters, they are considered RISE graduates. As a result of completing the RISE program curriculum, youth will build skills, improve school attendance, decrease negative behaviors, and be less likely to be involved in future delinquent activities. As skill development takes time, additional support is provided to youth for 3 to 6 months after completion of the curriculum.



AmeriCorps

of Youth Served:

204

of Youth Who Graduated RISE:

128



Trisha

AmeriCorps Member Service Experience

While earning my Bachelor degree, I happened across the need for a RISE specialist at district 7 probation in Norfolk. I was excited to apply what I was learning in college to some real-world experience through AmeriCorps and the RISE Program. I served as a RISE program specialist in district 7 for almost one-and-a-half years. During that time, I was able to witness the success and the struggles of youth in Nebraska. I had the pleasure of facilitating RISE groups and building rapport with so many smart and talented future leaders.

In addition to serving area youth, I enjoyed the opportunity to serve my local communities. The AmeriCorps service projects were an excellent way to address local needs while creating lifelong partnerships with other community organizations. Some of the service projects during my time with RISE included a nonperishable food drive, a pet supply drive for an animal shelter, a supply drive for a local foster care agency, and the implementation of hygiene supply baskets at both adult and juvenile probation.

RISE specialists are given the unique opportunity to serve alongside probation, often attending similar trainings and conferences. The staff there have a passion for helping people succeed, including each other and the individuals we serve. This atmosphere of hope is what drew me into my current position as a probation officer trainee in district 7. I will never forget how amazing it was to serve with AmeriCorps as a RISE specialist. Not only did I get to impact the lives of youth, I also received the opportunity to grow personally and professionally!

Case Management



Graduated Response

Research continues to build evidence supporting the implementation of age-appropriate graduated responses for youth on juvenile probation. In response, Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-286.01 was enhanced in 2017 to support the creation of a standardized matrix for youth incentives and sanctions. This is essential, as working with youth to change behavior can take time and have multiple differing responses. If youth are unable to change their behavior and continue to violate the court order, an alleged probation violation can be submitted to the court.

Number
of
Incentives

11,844



Number
of
Sanctions

3,369



4-to-1 Ratio:

Research suggests a ratio of four positive (incentives) to each negative (sanction) in order to affect long-term behavior change.

The ratio of incentives to sanctions for fiscal year 2022 is 3.5 to 1, which is up from 2.6 to 1 for fiscal 2021.

When would a motion to revoke probation be requested?

Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-286.01 states: "Failure to complete a sanction may result in repeating the sanction, increasing the duration, or selecting a different sanction similar in nature. Continued failure to comply could result in a request for a motion to revoke probation."

MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION

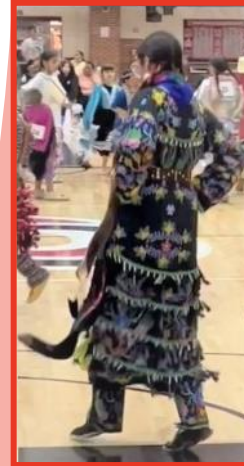
DISTRICT	1	2	3J	4J	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
FILINGS	76	95	191	212	81	75	191	17	139	95	120	83	1,375

Tangible Incentives



Case Management

New Enhancement! In fiscal year 2022, the Special Exceptions program was initiated as a result of feedback from probation officers and research supporting that individualized incentives impact long-term behavior change. This new program allows juvenile probation officers the ability to request a special exception tangible incentive that is specifically individualized for the youth they are supervising. Examples of these requests utilized to date are: a microwave for a youth who was in independent living, a bicycle for a youth who had no transportation, and school clothes and supplies for a youth who was beginning a new school year. See the story on the right about a special exception for Daydree to support her cultural dancing.



Success Story

This is a story about a youth we will call Dayna to protect her identity. She successfully completed treatment and returned to her mother's care. Unfortunately, her mother's alcoholism con-

-tinued and Dayna went to live with her aunt in Santee.

Dayna has been thriving in her new home. She attends school regularly and is passing her classes. She even joined the cheerleading team and was able to cheer and dance at basketball games. Dayna went from hating school to being a proud cheerleader!

Dayna immersed herself in her culture participating in powwows and helping with community events. Dancing in powwows has given her opportunities to enter competitions and earn money. She tried a jingle dress for the first time and won 3rd place!

Regalia for the costume is expensive so a Special Exception incentive was requested by the probation district for support. Dayna was given red powwow hair ties and leather hair wraps. Both items matched her regalia perfectly! She was so happy to receive them, she almost cried! Dayna was extremely grateful and appreciative of the thoughtful award. She wears her Special Incentive award proudly while dancing at powwows and takes pride in her culture. Dayna views these items as very meaningful awards that she earned during a very challenging time in her life.

Now, Dayna is always smiling from ear-to-ear and maintains a positive outlook on life. Dayna was successfully discharged from probation and has a promising future.

36%
Increase in the number of tangible incentives awarded in FY 2021

Tangible incentives provide juvenile probation officers the opportunity to reward positive progress for youth on probation. This program is now in its third year with the continued support of the Sherwood Foundation. Popular tangible incentives include gift cards to various retail stores, movie theaters, and fast-food restaurants. Additional tangible incentives include art supplies, socks, Bluetooth items, journals, bags, or sporting equipment, which also enhances physical activity. As a result of the ability to reward positive behaviors with tangible incentives, the ratio and utilization have increased since fiscal year 2021.

Tangible incentives are divided into two categories. First, they can be used as individual rewards with a \$10 monthly limit per youth during one-on-one meetings. Second, they can be used during group interactions with a \$50 monthly spending limit per group. These incentives can include snacks during the group sessions which help engage and encourage participation.

VALUE OF INCENTIVES AWARDED IN FY 2022

\$46,446.36

4,787

TANGIBLE INCENTIVES AWARDED IN FY 2022

Total Youth Served by Juvenile Probation

Case Management

Home-Based Initiative



Youth on juvenile probation receive individualized supervision and services which are core to effective case management. Probation officers that supervise youth are highly skilled and provide many interventions including cognitive restructuring groups, motivational interviewing, and field visits. Therefore, dosage and service duration are key. Focusing on the *right service*, at the *right time*, for the *right youth* is imperative to creating individualized case plans for youth on probation.



Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative

The expansion of the home-based initiative kicked off in April of 2017. Since that time, two evidence-informed services have been expanded. These services are Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and the Boys Town Ecological In-Home Family Treatment (EIHFT) program.



An average of **70.2** families received MST services per month during this fiscal year



Evidence-informed home-based services covers **86%** of Nebraska counties



An average of **104.4** families received EIHFT services per month during this fiscal year

Home-Based Service for Probation Youth Recognized as a Promising Practice

Promising Practices are those initiatives that have demonstrated efficacy via peer-reviewed research using reliable and valid outcome measures. This milestone is a key benchmark in probation's work to bring evidence-based practices that meet the needs of the youth and families we serve across the state.

More information can be found on the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse website:
<https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/boys-town-in-home-family-services/>

The Ecological In-Home Family Treatment (EIHFT) service model has been recognized by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse as a *Promising Practice* under the service name Boys Town In-Home Family Services (BT-IHFS).

This service focuses on building the skills of parents/caregivers of system-involved youth. Leveraging an adapted version of the Boys Town's evidence-based *Common Sense Parenting*[®] program designed to build on existing skills or learn new ways of managing youth behaviors, EIHFT/BT-IHFS delivers intensive home-based services to the family/social ecology of the youth on probation to create lasting change. This model has been shown effective at improving many of the underlying reasons youth find themselves on probation by engaging families, conducting assessments, building parenting and life skills, and assisting with resources and supports. As the clearinghouse program overview noted, "BT-IHFS was developed to serve families with high caregiver strain, ineffective parenting strategies, difficulty accessing formal and informal supports, and children with significant emotional and behavioral needs."

The Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation has concentrated on expanding rural access to these services in recent years. EIHFT/BT-IHFS services are available for youth in most counties statewide.

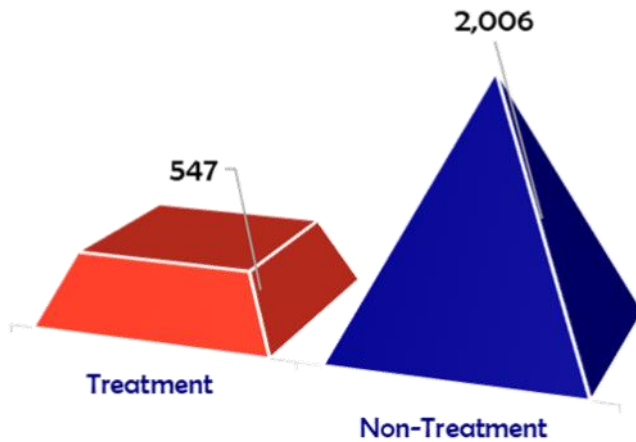
Financials



Case Management

Probation staff work with registered service providers statewide to connect youth to quality behavioral health and non-clinical supportive services. Financial assistance is available to ensure youth can access services. With targeted services, supervision outcomes can improve youths' risk of recidivism. Treatment services may include: substance-use or mental health treatment (outpatient or residential) and medication management. Non-treatment services may include: educational tutoring, day/evening reporting, mediation, shelter care, foster care, and transportation, just to name a few.

Service Type Per Youth Receiving Financial Assistance



Average Daily Cost of Probation

Includes personnel and operating expenses

\$41.57

*Services funded by probation are tracked through vouchers
Up \$7.03 from FY 2021*

Service provision for youth funded by alternative streams is not represented (i.e. Medicaid, private insurance, etc.). Youth may appear in both treatment and non-treatment counts. Detention is not included.

\$6,278.10
Overall Avg./Youth

\$523.17
Monthly Avg./Youth



In-Home/Community-Based Services

\$22,863.91
Overall Avg./Youth

\$1,905.33
Monthly Avg./Youth



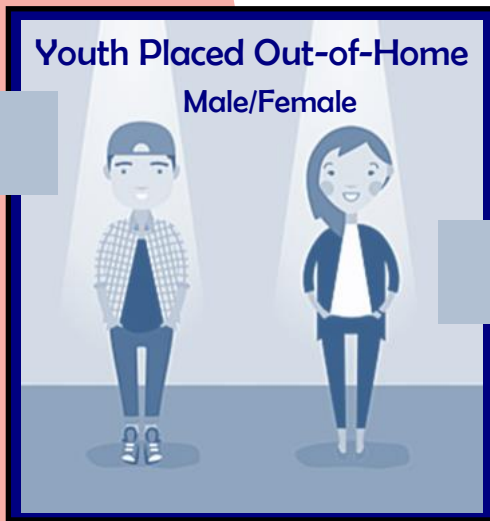
Out-of-Home Services

Average Annual/Monthly Cost for Youth Receiving Financial Assistance

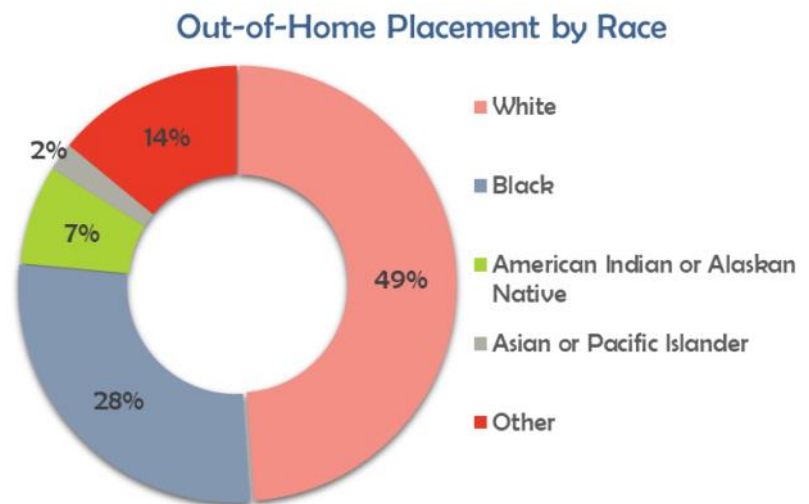
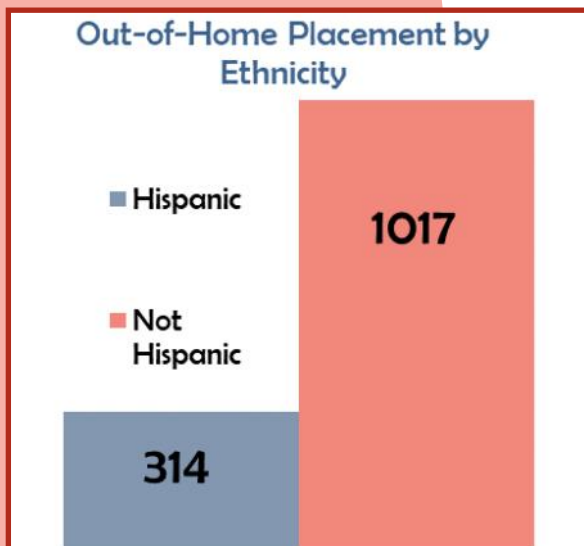
Out-of-Home Placement



Juvenile justice system enhancement prioritizes the reduction of unnecessary placement of youth outside of their homes. Efforts continue to enhance and expand access to home-based services which will assist in accomplishing this priority. There are still times when all efforts have been exhausted and an out-of-home placement is necessary to provide for community safety and treatment services. These out-of-home placements include congregate care (treatment and non-treatment), foster care, alternatives to detention, detention/jail, runaway, and youth residential treatment centers. In fiscal year 2022, 1,331 youth were served in an out-of-home placement for one day or more.



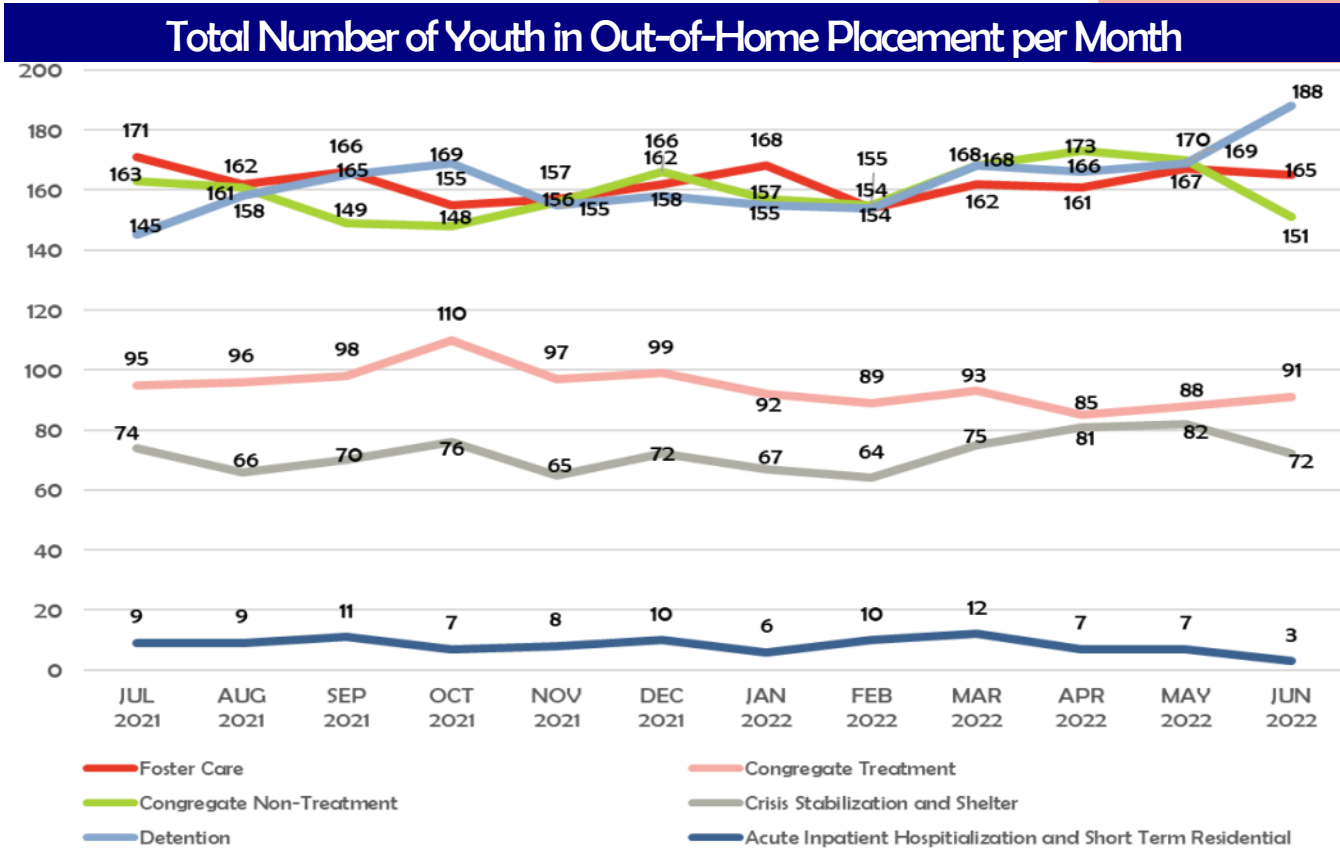
Age at Out-of-Home Placement	
Age of Youth	# of Probationers
12	50
13	102
14	193
15	290
16	320
17	279
18	97





Out-of-Home Placement

When youth are placed out-of-home, probation officers work immediately with the placement staff, youth, and family to develop a plan for youth to transition back to their homes and local community, ensuring public safety. This is especially important when youth are placed out-of-state because distance becomes a key factor in transition planning.



Congregate Non-Treatment: group homes (A, B, and developmental disability), maternity group homes (parenting and non-parenting), and independent living
 Congregate Treatment: psychiatric residential treatment facilities and treatment group homes
 Detention: secure and staff secure
 Foster Care: developmental disability, extended family home, professional foster care, emergency foster care, foster care, relative/kinship, and respite



In fiscal year 2022, of youth placed out-of-home, 143 were placed in treatment or non-treatment congregated care out of the state of Nebraska

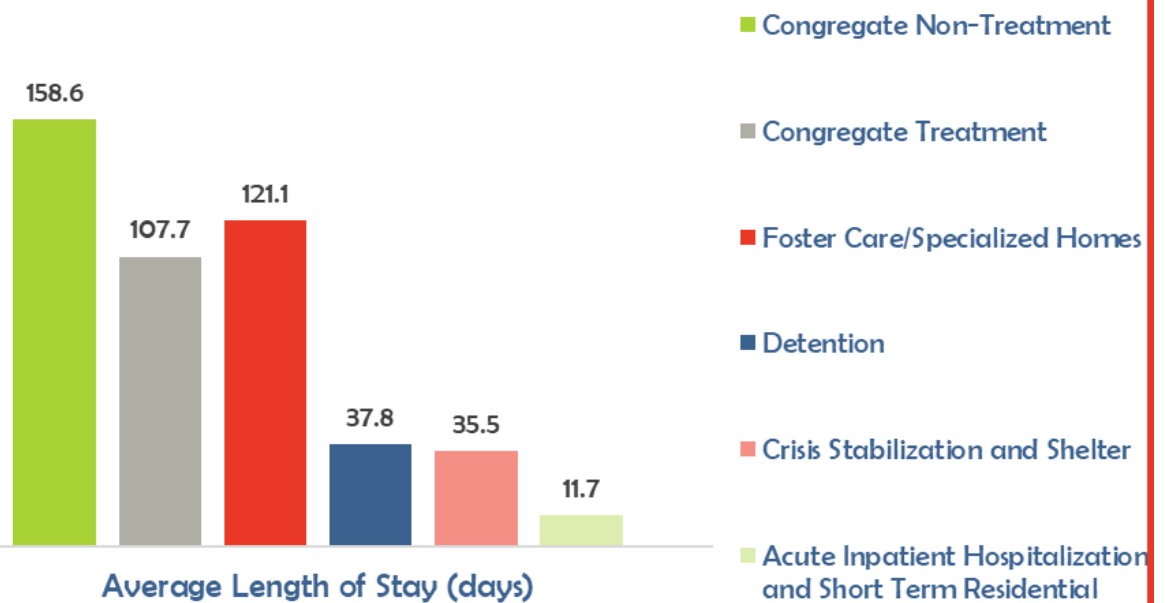
Out-of-Home Placement



When a youth is placed out-of-home, each placement type has an optimal “average length of stay” detailed in each of the specific *Juvenile Service Definitions*, found on the Supreme Court website. This “average length of stay” reflects the time the service has shown evidence to achieve the service outcomes with the overarching goal of behavior change and risk reduction. Additionally, research demonstrates that short-term placements such as detention should focus on immediate community safety risks and have shown to increase risk if utilized for low-risk youth and for long periods of time.

4.19
Fundamental
Measures for
Juvenile
Justice

Average Number of Days in Out-of-Home Placement



In the last fiscal year,
total
out-of-home
placements have
reduced by

9%



Discharge

When a youth is placed on probation, it is key that a skilled probation officer works closely with the youth to ensure all court-ordered probation conditions are successfully completed. This should result in a reduction of the youth's risk and a change in those behaviors that brought the youth before the court. Once a youth has completed his or her probation conditions, a judge releases the youth from probation supervision. There are three options: the youth may be discharged from probation successfully, unsuccessfully, or probation may be revoked. A basic measure of success for juvenile probation is the number of youth that successfully complete probation.

81%

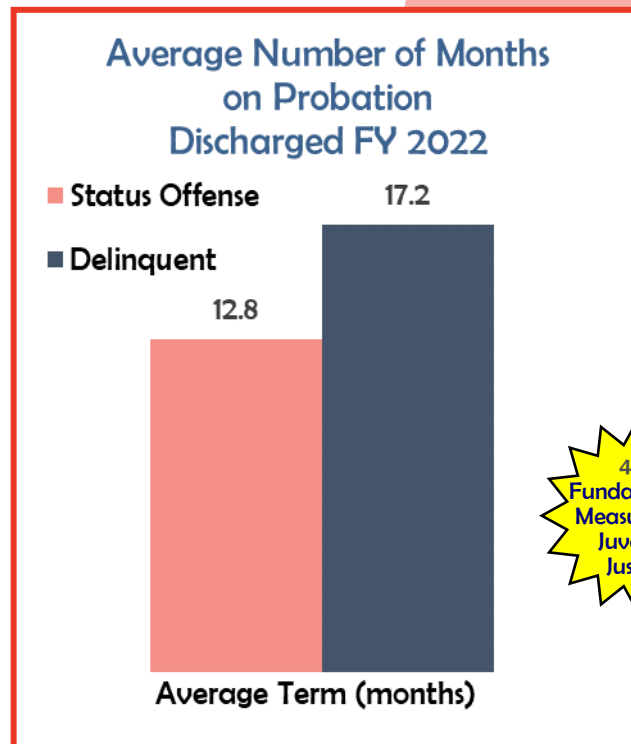
of youth on probation were discharged successfully

Up 6% from FY 2021

1.11
Fundamental Measures for Juvenile Justice

In this fiscal year, 2,437 juvenile court cases were discharged from probation (115 youth were released for an "other" discharge option and are not included in the total). Discharge examples include a district override or adjudication transfer.

District #	Successful Discharges	Unsuccessful/ Revoked
1	76	17
2	114	23
3)	189	62
4)	327	108
5	147	26
6	161	37
7	101	42
8	50	11
9	206	39
10	107	37
11	272	22
12	229	34
Total	1,979	458



4.21
Fundamental Measures for Juvenile Justice

4.22
Fundamental Measures for Juvenile Justice

5% of the youth discharged in fiscal year 2022 reached the age of majority

Total Youth Served by Juvenile Probation

Recidivism



DID NOT
RECIDIVATE

81%

RECIDIVATE

19%

Note: Youth included in this data were discharged in fiscal year 2021

Recidivism is nationally supported as a way to measure the impact of juvenile probation. The Supreme Court approved a standard definition for recidivism which is documented below. Additionally, the Fundamental Data Measures for Juvenile Justice have released a recommended recidivism definition which is currently being reviewed for possible release in next year's report. National experts continue to suggest using a consistent definition over time to determine impact is a best practice.

Recidivism has reduced for youth successfully discharged from probation since programming the data measure in FY 2018



Nebraska Supreme Court Recidivism Definition

For the purpose of accurately assessing program recidivism across justice programs, Nebraska State Probation and Nebraska Problem-Solving Courts shall utilize the following uniform definitions of recidivism for all adults and juveniles within their respective programs.

- A) **Adults:** As applied to adults, recidivism shall mean a final conviction of a Class I or II misdemeanor, a Class IV felony or above, or a Class W misdemeanor based on a violation of state law or an ordinance of any city or village enacted in conformance with state law, within three years of being successfully released.
- B) **Juveniles:**
 - 1) As applied to juveniles, recidivism shall mean that within one year of being successfully released from a probation or problem-solving court program, the juvenile has:
 - a) an adjudication pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-247(1) or (2)
 - b) for a juvenile fourteen years or older, a final conviction for a Class W misdemeanor based on a violation of state traffic laws or ordinances of any city or village enacted in conformance with state law; or
 - c) a prosecution and final conviction as an adult for any crimes set forth in subsection A) above
 - 2) For juveniles that age-out of the juvenile system within one year of program exit and who did not recidivate post-program as juveniles, the adult definition of post-program recidivism, including any drug-related or alcohol-related conviction, shall apply.

SPOTLIGHT

THRIVE



THRIVE was created by the Eyes of the Child team in district 11 under the leadership of Judge Payne. It is currently a pilot program developed for probation youth with the goal of creating viable and sustainable mentoring opportunities. The youth are matched with mentors from established relationships who work with them using a mentoring curriculum which includes skill-building activities such as fostering relationships, setting goals, and planning for the future. The mentor is coached by a THRIVE worker and given support and tools to develop skills with the youth.

Keaton was one of the first youth referred to the program. He had been unsuccessful in prior services provided and was not attending school. Keaton was not happy about THRIVE, but when his mom found a family friend that was willing to be a mentor, Keaton agreed to try it. His mentor understood the dynamics of the family, helped find what Keaton was interested in, and was able to use their common interests to form a bond. With the coaching of the Thrive worker, the mentor was able to encourage Keaton to sign up to get his GED. Keaton challenged his mom to attend classes with him, and the mentor encouraged mom as well. When THRIVE services ended, both Keaton and his mom were attending GED classes, Keaton was holding a steady job, and the mentor continues to be a support system for the family.

Success Stories

Kylar was mentored by his sister. Kylar did not really know his older sister very well. One activity he chose was playing games. Kylar and his mentor started playing games at the family home and the whole family ended up joining. Kylar shared with the Thrive worker that the family continued to randomly spend time playing games after that day. The mentor held Kylar accountable and encouraged him to do his best in the activities he chose. Mentoring not only improved Kylar's attitude at home and school, but it also enabled him to get to know his sister, who will continue to be a lifetime support to him.

Peyton had an exchange student from McCook Community College as a mentor. She did not know her mentor before the program started. The mentor was able to help her recognize how to use exercise as an outlet for anger. She modeled proper ways to have fun and what healthy friendships looked like. Peyton and her mentor did an activity about stepping outside their comfort zone. Peyton was starting a new school and the mentor challenged her to approach new people there. Peyton was able to achieve this goal and talked to two new girls and a teacher. The mentor did an excellent job praising Peyton as well as modeling that it is okay to like school and get good grades. After Thrive ended, Peyton continued attending school and was passing her classes.



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July 2023*



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