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# The Role of Race and Ethnicity in the San Diego County Juvenile Justice System

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Research findings from the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse

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## Purpose of the study

The overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system is indisputable. This fact, along with the foundational rehabilitative tenet of the juvenile system has driven local juvenile justice stakeholders to consistently examine and modify the system to better serve San Diego County youth and their families under their care. This study is part of the larger transformation occurring within the local juvenile justice system, including partnering with leading researchers in the field at the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR), participating in a Capstone Project: Transforming Juvenile Probation, revising the San Diego Risk and Recidivism Checklist (SDRRC-II) and conducting a validation study, contracting with San Diego State University to conduct professional trainings for Probation Officers, and replacement of the old institutional settings by creating a new Urban Camp utilizing a therapeutic environmental design.

This study was the third of its kind undertaken by SANDAG’s Applied Research Division (ARD) at the direction of San Diego County juvenile justice partners and was conducted during a transformation period of the County’s Juvenile Probation Department and its partners. The rigorous review of the degree of racial/ethnic overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system, and more importantly, the reasons driving any differences was conducted by SANDAG’s ARD, in cooperation with the County’s Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RRED) Committee. The findings are detailed in this summary report.

### Definition of decision points

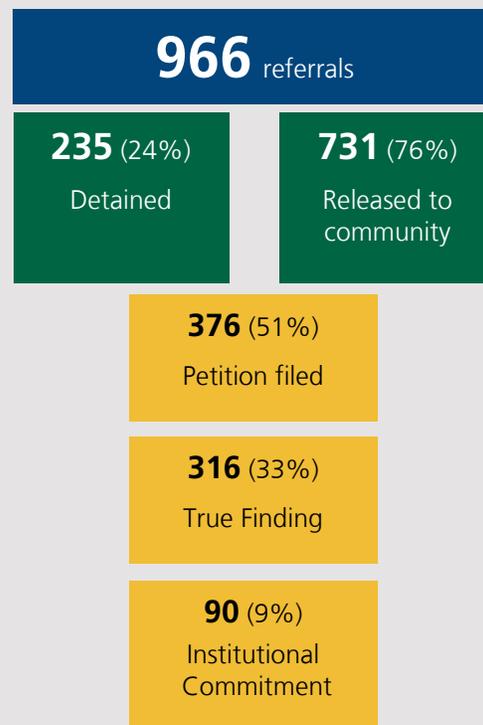
- *Referral to Probation:* A citation, usually from law enforcement for the youth to report to Probation
- *Detention:* For the purposes of this study detention was pre-adjudication detention into Juvenile Hall 0 to 2 days from referral date
- *Petition filed:* A formal filing to the court by the District Attorney alleging delinquency
- *True Finding:* A determination by the court that the youth is delinquent (similar to a conviction in adult court)
- *Commitment:* For the purpose of this study, commitment is an institutional commitment that results in a placement of the youth outside the home for a period of time

## Study methodology and findings

This study involved analyses of a random sample of 966 youth drawn from all youth who received a referral to the San Diego County Probation Department in calendar year 2018. Data were gathered from multiple sources and included both legal and non-legal variables to provide the most comprehensive account of information available to the decision makers about the youth. Bivariate and multivariate analyses were conducted to identify any racial/ethnic disproportionate representation and subsequently any predictive factors contributing to it. The results showed Black and Hispanic youth were disproportionately represented at the front end of the juvenile justice system (i.e., arrest, Probation referrals, and detention) and at the back end (i.e., institutional commitment); however, race/ethnicity was not a direct predictor of this involvement. Specifically, multivariate analysis found a youth’s race/ethnicity alone did not increase the probability of a youth’s involvement in the system.

Figure ES 1

### RRED study sample decision making case flow



## Results and recommendation

### Result 1: Disproportionate contact starts prior to entering the juvenile justice system.

In general, compared to their proportion in the population, of all arrests in 2018 Black and Hispanic youth were overrepresented at the point of arrest, with Black youth accounting for nearly 4-times the proportion of arrests (15%) compared to their representation in the population (4%) and Hispanic youth comprising over half (55%) of arrests compared to 47% of the population. Examination by rate per 1,000 youth 10 to 17 years old clearly illustrates the overrepresentation with Black youth arrested at a rate (39.27) 3 to 9 times higher than all other youth (5.60 to 12.59) (Figure ES 2).

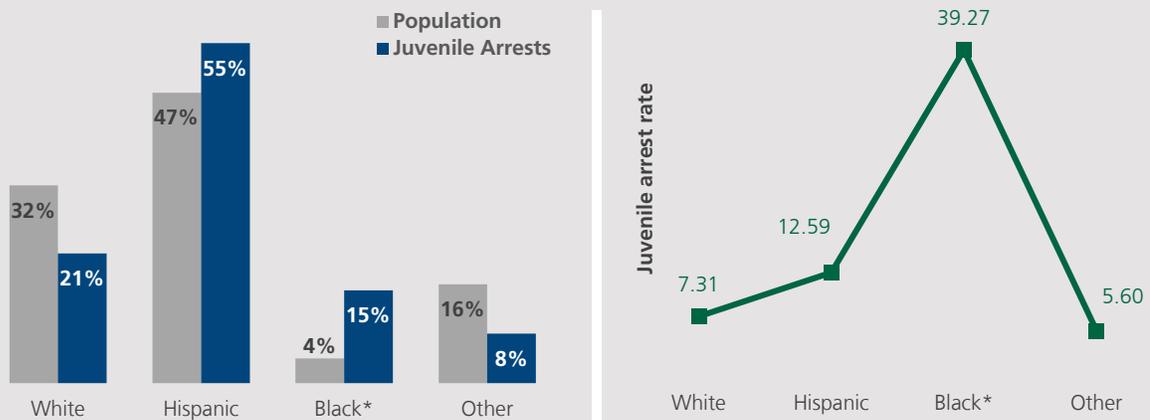
In addition, of all the youth in the sample with a referral, a larger proportion of Black youth (40%) were brought to Juvenile Hall for possible booking pre-adjudication compared to all other youth (28% Other race/ethnicity, 27% Hispanic, and 20% White) (not shown).

### Recommendations 1:

- Continue to support programs in the community that divert youth from having contact with the formal juvenile justice system (e.g. Community Assessment Teams (CAT)<sup>1</sup>, Alternatives to Detention (ATD)<sup>2</sup> and other community-based support services).
- Work with local law enforcement agencies to expand and monitor the use of juvenile diversion across all jurisdictions to ensure consistent and equitable implementation.
- Examine the factors associated with Black youth being brought to Juvenile Hall for possible bookings to determine other points of intervention that could reduce justice involvement (e.g. school discipline, child welfare services, diversion).

Figure ES 2

### Arrests percentage and rate per 1,000 population ages 10 to 17 years old by race/ethnic



Note: Arrests data are from all juvenile arrests in 2018 and not linked to the study sample. \*Significant at  $p < .05$

Source: SANDAG

<sup>1</sup> CAT is part of the continuum of services provided to youth who are at-risk or have come in contact with Probation. CAT is located in the community, services are provided by community-based organizations, and the focus is on prevention services for the youth and/or his/her family.

<sup>2</sup> ATD is also part of the continuum of services and provides an alternative to detention for youth who have come in contact with law enforcement, probation, and/or the courts.

**Result 2: A larger proportion of Black and Hispanic youth had prior contact with the juvenile justice system, which increased the probability of becoming more deeply involved in the system.**

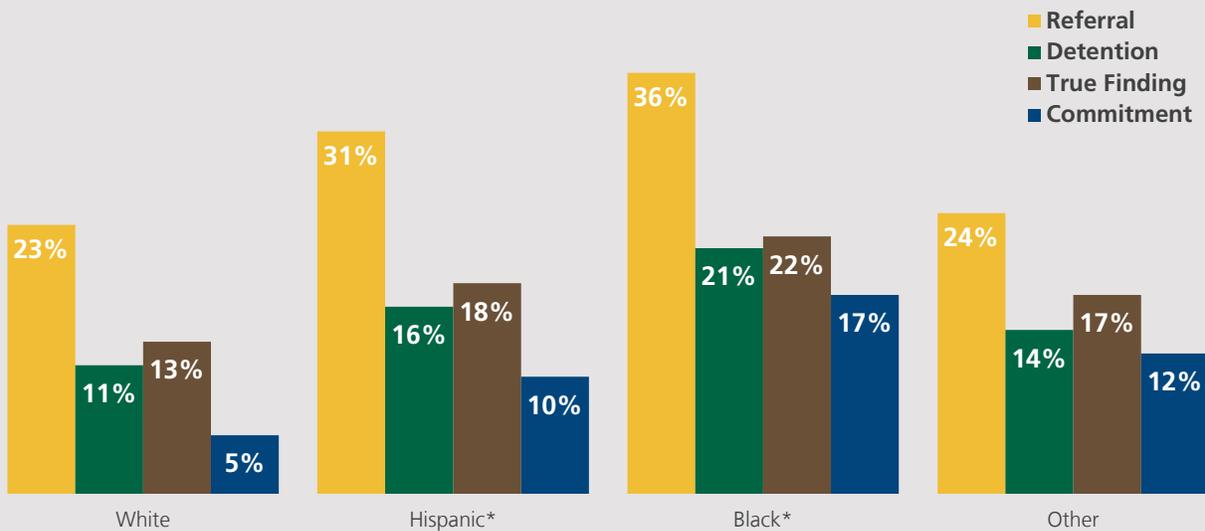
Analysis of prior contact with the justice system showed a greater proportion of Black and Hispanic youth had a juvenile justice history. It is important to view these data within the context that Black and Hispanic youth are historically subject to biased attitudes and practices that place them at greater risk for coming into contact with law enforcement and the justice system. The disproportionately builds upon itself, with prior contact viewed negatively in the decision process thereby perpetuating deeper involvement in the system.

**Recommendations 2:**

- Require on-going trainings on implicit bias and training on positive youth development for all juvenile justice stakeholders, including law enforcement.
- Continue to support all efforts to divert youth at each decision point, starting with arrest. These could include CAT, law enforcement diversion, ATD, and other community-based prevention and intervention programs.

Figure ES 3

**Prior juvenile justice involvement**



Total = 966

Note: Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding. \*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

**Result 3: Disproportionate contact was found to exist at the point of detention and commitment for this sample.**

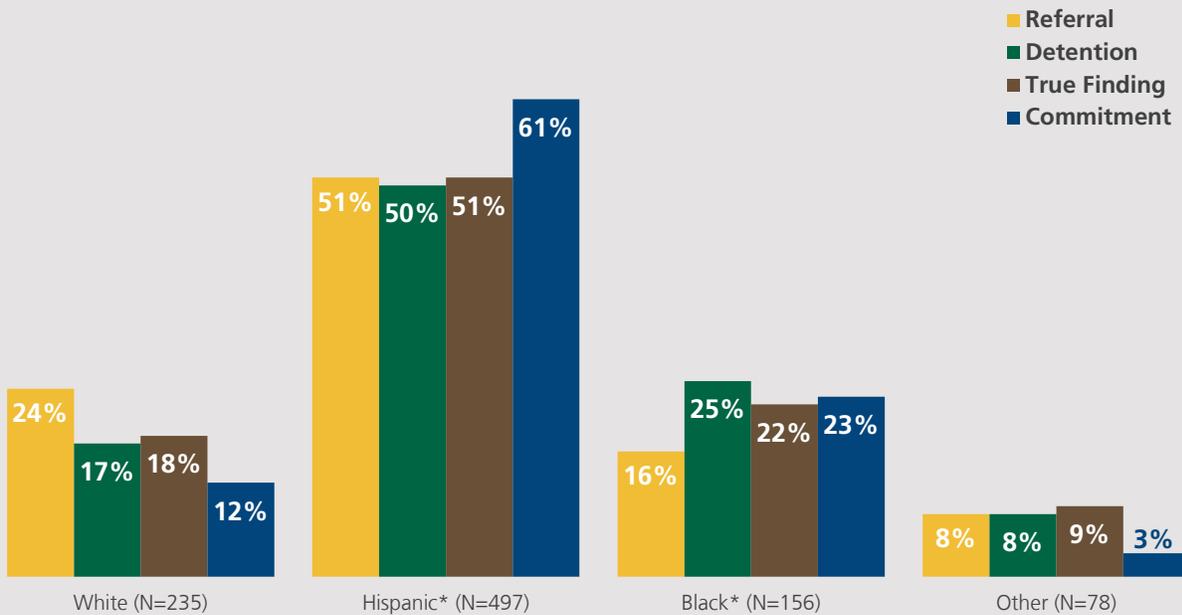
Compared to the decision point prior (the one that makes the youth eligible for the next decision), a significantly larger proportion of Black youth were detained pre-adjudication (25%) than had a referral to Probation (16%). Hispanic youth had a similar proportion of youth detained (50%) referred (51%) and had a true finding (51%); however, a larger proportion of Hispanic youth with a true finding received a commitment (61%).

**Recommendations 3:**

- As removal from home can be the most severe and traumatic response, any efforts to have the youth remain in the home when safe for him/her and the public should be prioritized.
- Revisit and/or revise the Detention Control Unit (DCU) screening form with attention to how past contact influences detention decisions.
- Conduct continual monitoring of DCU screening form to ensure fidelity in implementation across the lens of race and gender.
- Conduct quarterly monitoring of overrides as it relates to the DCU screening form.

Figure ES 4

**Juvenile justice decision points by race/ethnicity**



Notes: Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding. \*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

**Result 4: Logistic regression analyses of the sample showed no racial/ethnic disparities at any decision point in San Diego County’s juvenile justice system.**

Logistic regression analysis conducted at each decision point (detention, true finding, and commitment) showed a youth’s race/ethnicity, age, and gender had no effect on the outcome of the decision. This finding was also found at the point of commitment when more background information was known about a youth through their Social Study (a thorough documentation of youth’s background). This additional information did not affect the probability of youth receiving a commitment or not. Only prior contact with the justice system and the number, level, and type of instant offense (current offense) charges were related to an increased probability of contact at each of the decision points (Table ES 1).

**Recommendations 4:**

- Address the self-perpetuating cycle set in motion once a youth enters the justice system through continued support of practices and programs that divert or redirect youth from entering the system, such as CAT, law enforcement diversion, and ATD.
- Continue the work with current CJJR to develop and implement a disposition matrix to institutionalize the approach of prescribing the least restrictive disposition for each youth who contacts the juvenile justice system.
- Monitor the number of referrals by Probation and law enforcement to early prevention and intervention programs by race and gender throughout San Diego.

Table ES 1

**Factors related to changing the probability of youth being detained, having a true finding and/or receiving a commitment**

Factors Changing the Probability of Detention	
Instant Offense	Prior Justice Contact
Number of Referral Charges	Prior True Finding
Felony-Level Referral	Prior Property True finding
Violent Referral	
Factors Changing the Probability of Receiving a True Finding on a Petition	
Instant Offense	Prior Justice Contact
Number of Petition Charges	Violent Referral
Felony-Level Petition	Property Referral
Violent Petition	Property True Finding
	Number of Prior Commitment
	Prior Commitment
Factors Changing the Probability of Receiving a Commitment	
Instant Offense	Prior Justice Contact
Alcohol and Other Drug True Finding	Number of Prior Referral
Probation Recommendation	Prior Referral

Source: SANDAG

**Result 5: Analyses of youth background including family, school performance, socioeconomic status, abuse or neglect, substance use, and mental health showed a population that crossed many systems, providing opportunities for earlier intervention to prevent future involvement with the justice system.**

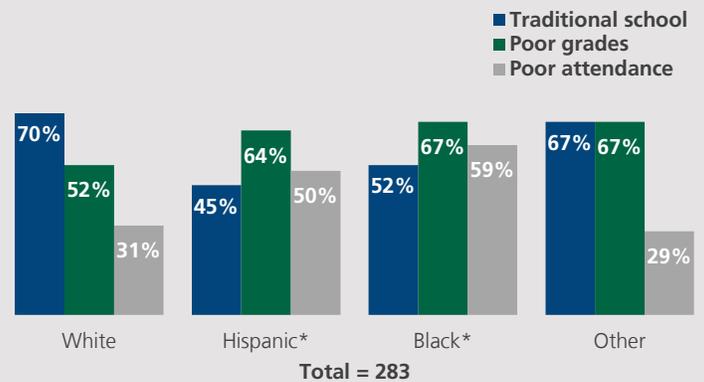
The extensive data collection on all youth who had a true finding (the decision point this information is gathered) showed varying degrees of trauma, contact with the Child Welfare System (CWS), challenges in school, and stressors within the youths’ families and living situations. In addition, Black and Hispanic youth experienced these stressors to a significantly greater degree. This information reinforces the challenge facing the justice system, which is often the last stop on a path paved with earlier warning signs and possible opportunities to intervene sooner to provide needed supports.

**Recommendation 5:**

- Strengthen cross-system collaborations with San Diego County’s Child Welfare Services (CWS), Behavioral Health System (BHS), and educational systems to intervene sooner and possibly redirect a youth from initial contact with the system.
- Collaborate with initiatives in the schools, including Promise Neighborhoods, to identify youth exhibiting risky behavior and proactively offer supports.

Figure ES 5

**School performance by race/ethnicity**

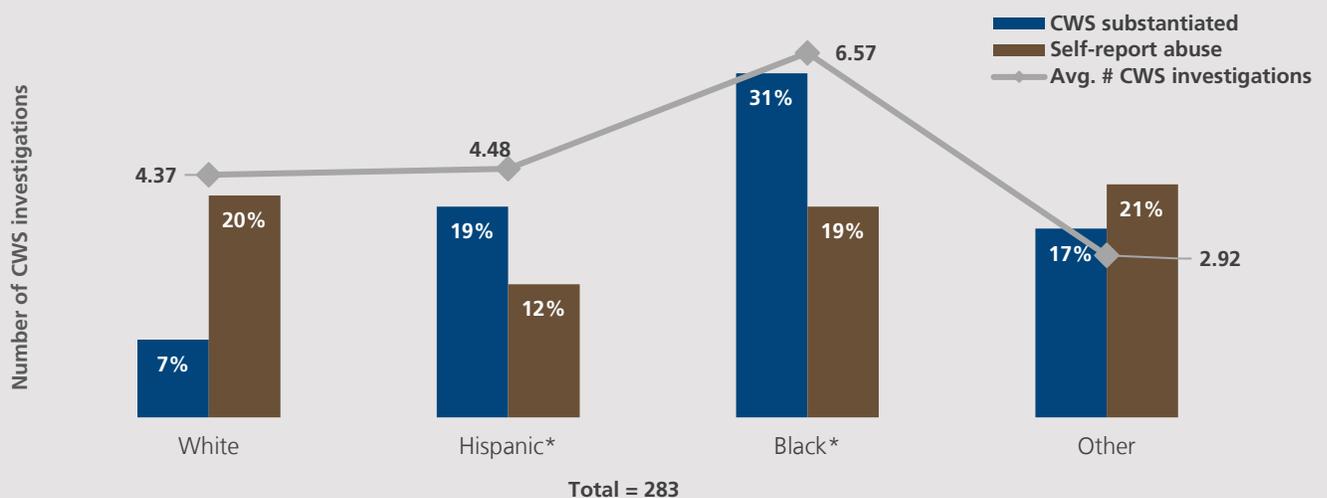


\* Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

Figure ES 6

**Percentage of CWS cases, self-reported abuse, and average number of investigations by race/ethnicity**



Note: Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding. \*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

### Result 6: Youth had more disruptive family events and traumatic incidents than indicated on the MAYSI-2 assessment.<sup>3</sup>

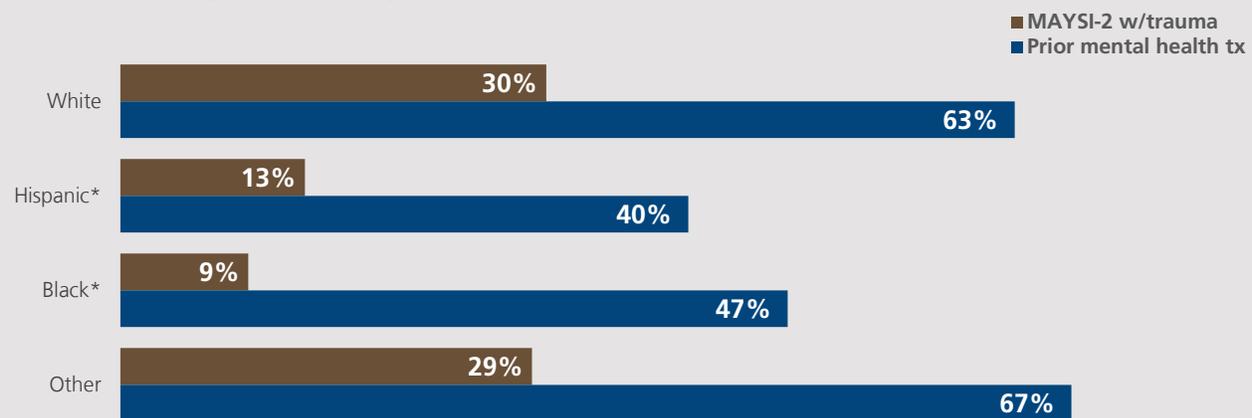
Of the youth with a true finding, less than one in five (17%) had a MAYSI-2 indicating at least one trauma experience. However, the youths' background histories indicated the existence of possible traumatic experiences not captured in the MAYSI-2. This was especially true for Black youth who had the largest proportion of substantiated CWS cases and the largest number, on average, of CWS investigations, were more often living in foster care, and/or had a parent who was or/had been incarcerated or deceased. Hispanic youth also had a greater proportion of these stressors compared to White youth. In addition, both Black and Hispanic youth were less likely to have received treatment for mental health needs or have at least one documented trauma incident on the MAYSI-2 compared to White youth.

### Recommendations 6:

- Identify a more comprehensive assessment to increase precision in identifying the trauma and mental health needs of the youth.
- Screen all youth in contact with the justice system for mental health needs sooner in the decision-making process.
- Ensure Probation and BHS funded programs in the community provide screening for trauma and mental health to youth at-risk or currently involved in the justice system.
- Expand the partnership with San Diego BHS to enhance the capacity to better identify and meet the mental health needs of the youth in the system.

Figure ES 7

#### Mental health by race/ethnicity



\*Significant at  $p < .05$

Source: SANDAG

<sup>3</sup> The MAYSI-2 is a brief behavioral health screening tool designed especially for juvenile justice programs and facilities. It identifies youths 12 through 17 years old who may have important, pressing behavioral health needs. Its primary use is in juvenile probation, diversion programs, and intake in juvenile detention or corrections.

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## Introduction

The overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system is indisputable (Lieber, Johnson, Fox, & Lacks, 2007; Henning, 2013). Consistently, children and teens of Hispanic, Black, and Indigenous descent comprise a larger proportion of the juvenile justice system than their representation in the population. This fact, along with the foundational rehabilitative tenet of the juvenile system has driven local juvenile justice stakeholders to consistently examine and modify the system to better serve San Diego County youth and their families under their care. This study was the third of its kind undertaken by the SANDAG Applied Research Division (ARD) at the direction of San Diego County juvenile justice partners and was conducted during a transformation period for the County's Probation Department and its juvenile justice partners. The rigorous review of the degree of disproportionality, and more importantly the reasons driving any differences was conducted by ARD, in cooperation with the County's Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RRED) committee and the findings are detailed in this summary report.

## Background

### The existence of racial and ethnic disparities

In 2018, Congress passed the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (H.R. 6964) amending the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974. The Act amended the previous 1992 JJDP amendment requiring states participating in the Formula Grants Program to take steps to identify and address any Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) (formerly Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)) or risk losing funds. The Act not only expanded the original legislation to include ethnicity in states' efforts to address RED, but also required states to create a coordinating body charged with RRED, using data to identify at which decision points in the juvenile justice system disparities may exist, and create a plan to address them (The W. Haywood Burns Institute and Children's Law and Policy, 2019). These actions filtered down to the local level, especially in states like California with a decentralized juvenile justice system, with each county acting as its own steward to develop and implement their strategic reforms. This legislative mandate elevated the issue of disproportionality among the nation's juvenile justice stakeholders and spurred research in the field to quantify, explain, and ultimately address overrepresentation and racial disparities.

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### **Prior San Diego County RRED (formerly Disproportionate Minority Contact DMC) actions**

*2002: San Diego County formed its DMC (now RRED) Committee*

*2005: SANDAG conducted a five-phase analysis of DMC*

*2008: SANDAG completed the DMC identification and assessment report*

*2008: RRED Committee implemented recommendations from 2008 DMC report*

However, RED continues to persist, despite three decades passing since the 1992 amendment to JJDP to address RED (then DMC) and the abundance of research on RED and efforts to ameliorate racial inequities in the system. National data on 2018 delinquency cases showed while White youth comprised 53% of the population, they only represented 44% of all delinquency cases processed in the court, while non-White youth represented the rest. Of note, Black youth accounted for over twice as many cases as their representation in the population (35% compared to 15%). While there have been significant declines in juvenile arrests and subsequent juvenile delinquency cases overall, the decrease has been slower for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and the disproportionality persists. Between 2005 and 2018 the percent decrease of delinquency cases for White youth was 59% compared to 53%, 48%, and 43% for Black, Hispanic, and American Indian youth. Furthermore, only White youth experienced a decrease in delinquency case representation during this time, while all other youth saw an uptick in their proportion of cases (Hockenberr & Puzzanchera, 2018). The constellation of reasons for the overrepresentation are complex and tied to the history of societal implicit and explicit racial biases.

## Factors contributing to RED

Identifying the existence of RED is only the first step in a process, followed by the more challenging endeavor to unpack the web of contributing legal and non-legal factors, including the historic and structural pillars which birthed and perpetuate systemic racial injustice (Bell & Ridolfi, 2008). When examining RED within the juvenile justice system, it is important to remember it is not a one-system issue, but rather there are multiple factors present that often bring the youth to the attention of other systems (e.g., child welfare and educational system) prior to their involvement in the justice system (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2016; Mallete, 2016). Historically, the juvenile justice system was born within a segregationist society and perpetuated its racial injustices both in the disparate involvement and treatment of BIPOC (Bell & Ridolfi, 2008). For example, historians have shown that at its inception, the United States juvenile justice system was more likely to deny Black youth rehabilitative or diversion interventions compared to their White counterparts (Bell & Ridolfi, 2008). Furthermore, the inequitable treatment of BIPOC and individuals living poor communities is steeped in attitudes, policies, and beliefs that view non-White youth's behavior as a threat and the differential treatment justifiable (Center for Children's Law and Policy, 2015). This legacy is visible in the current system through implicit bias on the part of decision makers who may view Black youth as more of a threat, perpetuate differential treatment, and may be blinded by the existence of race neutral policies to their own racially biased actions. Examples of these "well intentioned" actions are the increased interventions in the name of "support" that result in removal from home, longer detentions, and increased opportunity to violate court conditions, therefore furthering involvement in the system (Keaton, Burke, Rohanna, Sievers, & Schafer, 2009; Schwalbe & Maschi, 2009).

In addition, research has demonstrated how school policies<sup>4</sup>, generations of poverty, and implicit and explicit bias have contributed to the existence of RED in the juvenile justice system (Graham & Lowery, 2004; Mallete, 2016; Rodriguez, 2013). More specifically, youth living in disadvantaged neighborhoods lack opportunities often available in more affluent communities with higher performing schools, more secure food and housing, and reduced stressors associated with poverty (Chung & Steinberg, 2006; Heuer & Stullich, 2011; Murry, Gaylord-Harden, Berkel, Copeland-Linder, & Nation, 2011; Quillian, 2017).

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<sup>4</sup> Policies include school-to-prison pipeline that criminalize youth's behavior on campus and pushes them towards the justice system.

While the non-legal factors contributing to RED are evident, the system itself can also perpetuate RED, as prior contact can equate to harsher dispositions (Bishop, 2005). The overrepresentation of youth in the juvenile justice system starts at the point of law enforcement and persists at various decision points in the system (Lofstrom, Brandon, Goss, & Raphael, 2019). Research has shown the most effective means to reduce RED and prevent recidivism is diversion from the justice system entirely (Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, 2019).

The overrepresentation at the first touch with the system has chronic and significant effects on how a youth proceeds or does not proceed throughout the system. Specifically, a youth's prior record is used in rating scales on most validated juvenile justice risk assessments, including the San Diego Risk and Resiliency Checklist II (SDRRC-II) and is a metric used on detention unit's screening tools to determine whether or not to detain a youth pre-adjudication<sup>5</sup>. Probation, while intending to support youth, can contribute to pulling youth further into the system. Research has shown that the number of contacts with Probation and within the system increases the severity of response, with any initial race effect disappearing after the first referral (Caudill, Morris, Sayed, Yun, & DeLisi, 2013). Therefore, disparity at the beginning of the decision process (e.g., arrests and then detention) could have an indirect racial effect by increasing the likelihood of subsequent formal dispositions and sanctions (Caudill, Morris, Sayed, Yun, & DeLisi, 2013).

### **RRED and transforming the juvenile justice system**

In San Diego County, the process to systematically examine RED started in the early 2000s with the formation of the San Diego County DMC (now RRED) committee, comprised of key juvenile justice stakeholders and led by The Children's Initiative and San Diego County Probation Department. The first exploratory RRED study was conducted in 2003 and a more extensive one was completed in 2008, which included recommendations for reducing the identified disparities in the system (Keaton, Burke, Rohanna, Sievers, & Schafer, 2009). One of the key recommendations included on-going monitoring of RRED within the system using the Relative Rate Index (RRI) as an early warning beacon and possible need for additional investigation. The RRED committee continued to guide this process and recently, as part of a larger systemwide transformation, called for another study to examine the existence and possible contributing reasons of RED.

<sup>5</sup> In San Diego County this tool is referred to as the Detention Control Unit (DCU) screening tool. All youth brought to Juvenile Hall are administered the DCU form by a DCU officer.

#### Box 1

### **San Diego County's Juvenile Justice Transformation Process**

San Diego County juvenile justice leaders have collaborated on transforming juvenile justice system to align with the most current best practices in the field. The hub of this transformation is the creation of the Kearny Mesa Master Plan to shift housing and institutional programs toward more therapeutic and rehabilitative models consistent with positive youth development. Action items including:

- Building a new Urban Camp that aligns with the intensive therapeutic model. Elements include:
  - Trauma-informed and campus design;
  - Space to accommodate family visits;
  - Space to accommodate skill building, school, and counseling;
  - Indoor and outdoor recreation spaces;
  - Fewer number of youth housed in each living unit;
  - Living units conducive to rehabilitation; and
  - Mental health clinicians located in each unit.
- Incorporated effective and best practice programming to manage the juvenile justice institutional population.
- Created policies that reduce detention and incarceration of the youth on the front end, including:
  - Design of policies to not detain youth arrested and charged with a misdemeanor offense;
  - Probation Officer has discretion to refer a youth to community supports in place of bringing him/her back to court on a probation violation; and
  - Established robust community-based resources to provide pro-social alternatives to detentions for youth struggling to comply with his/her probation terms.
- Participating in an 18-month intensive Juvenile Justice Service Improvement Project through Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform to redesign the system. Potential outcomes include:
  - Using a Disposition Matrix based on risk-level to inform dispositional (adjudication) outcomes;
  - Creating a map of rehabilitative services to support appropriate referrals based on risk and criminogenic needs identified through the Matrix process;
  - Confirming the validity and reliability of the SDRRC-II (primary tool used to make case plan decisions); and
  - Completing the SPEP (Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol) to rate the effectiveness of local programming available for youth in the system.
- Completed the Capstone Certification Project: Transforming Juvenile Probation in 2019.

The juvenile justice system finds itself in a challenging position of balancing the need to hold youth accountable for their actions, along with the obligation of addressing the underlying needs that contributed to their contact with the juvenile justice system. As the research has shown, justice-involved youth often have academic struggles, untreated trauma and/or mental health needs, child welfare interactions, and/or socioeconomic disparities placing them at greater risk for entanglement with law enforcement and Probation departments (Fox, Perez, Cass, Baglivio, & Epps, 2015; Mallete, 2016; Rodriguez, 2013; Schwalbe & Maschi, 2009). Historically, the system has seen the pendulum swing from its beginning roots of rehabilitation to the punitive approach of the 1980s and 1990s, characterized by the “super predators”, back to the current era of a more therapeutic approach. The system is again transforming itself, driven by research on effective practices, research on adolescent brain development, and leadership’s will to return to a comprehensive, community-based, therapeutic approach. In the past decade, valuable research has emerged on adolescent brain development that has forced systems working with youth to consider adolescent development to fully understand the behaviors of youth (National Research Council, 2013; Sampson & Laub, 2005). The adolescent brain continues to develop into young adulthood and as a result, teens lack the maturity, impulse control, and judgement regulating if choices could be harmful to them or others (Luna & Wright, 2016). Awareness and evidence have enlightened public officials, justice professionals, and community providers to pass less punitive legislation, reform juvenile justice approaches, and offer appropriate interventions in the community. Simultaneously, a body of research has shown that confinement and reliance on punitive structure are not the most effective approach for public safety and supporting youth and their families (Loughran, et al., 2009; Huizinga, Schumann, Ehret, & Elliott, 2004; Fabelo, Arrigona, Thompson, Clemens, & Marchbanks III, 2015). While institutional placements continue to be viewed as necessary for the most violent offenses, public opinion and policy are shifting towards family-focused interventions in the youth’s community.

Locally, this has translated to a complete restructuring of the juvenile justice system to align with the most current research and most effective models in the nation. Specifically, San Diego County has recalibrated its juvenile justice system to serve more youth in the community to reduce future involvement in the system. As noted in Box 1, under the direction of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and with the leadership of The Children’s Initiative, San Diego County Probation Department, District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender, Health and Human Services Agency, and community-based organizations (CBOs) are:

- Increasing alternatives to detention for low-and medium-risk youth;
- Contracting with national juvenile justice leaders to inform the redesign of the juvenile justice process;
- Redesigning detention facilities to create an environment that aligns with its new therapeutic approach to confinement;
- Educating leadership regarding juvenile justice and positive youth development best practices and models in the nation;
- Conducting additional analysis of programs for adjudicated youth to determine effectiveness and when applicable, redirecting funds to implement different evidence-based interventions;
- Increasing professional development with an emphasis on racial justice, adolescent brain development, and effectiveness of therapeutic models; and
- Changing policies to reduce the bookings and confinement of youth in the system.

Embracing change, Probation and its partners called for a reexamination of how youth of color are represented and treated in the local system. SANDAG was asked to perform the following analysis summarized in this report to go beyond identifying any disproportionality and to identify any contributing factors. While the data for this report are slightly dated (2018-the most complete data at the start of the study), the in-depth review of all cases in the sample provides valuable information on who is in the system and the constellation of life circumstances contributing to their path toward the juvenile justice system.

## Methodology

This study is a product and continuation of the best practices to continually monitor and readjust operations when necessary to strengthen the systems approach to juvenile delinquency. Following the guidelines put forth by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the Haywood Burns Institute, and the Center for Children’s Law and Policy on the steps to identify and expose factors contributing to RED, SANDAG conducted a two-step study of San Diego County’s Juvenile Justice System’s process and service of juveniles who come in contact with the system. The first step was a macro examination using the OJJDP’s RRI to identify if and at what point racial disproportionality exists. The second step was a detailed examination of each juvenile case, extracting factors that could indirectly contribute to a youth’s involvement in the system.

### Sample data

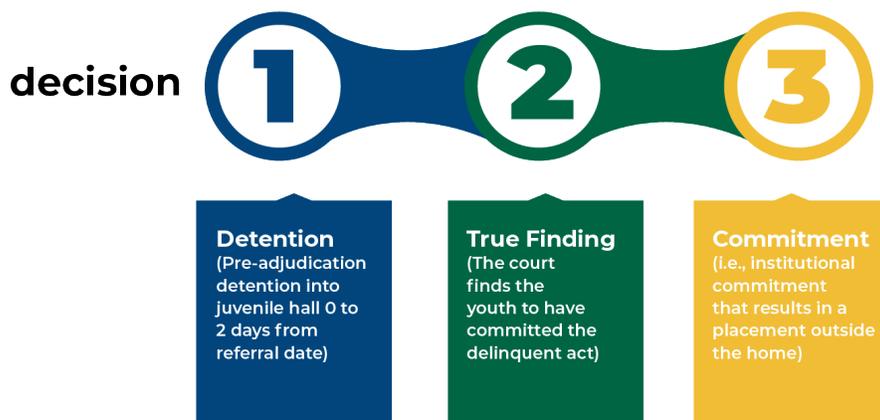
The sampling methodology consisted of drawing a random sample from all referrals to the San Diego County Probation during calendar year 2018 (n= 3,968). A random sample (as opposed to selecting all cases) was necessary due to the large number of cases and the extensive manual data collection associated with each case. This random selection method allows for generalization to the entire 2018 population of juvenile referrals. Prior to selecting the sample, a power analysis was conducted to determine the sample size needed for moderate power when testing the difference in decisions by race/ethnicity at a significance level of .05 (detailed in Appendix E).<sup>6</sup> For this analysis, 1,001 unique youth with 1,001 instant offense referrals were randomly selected using a random number generator in MS Excel. During data collection, some referrals were identified as inappropriate to include in the model and dropped from analysis; for example, 36 youth were excluded from the model either because their case was a transfer from another county or a transfer case to another county and therefore San Diego County was not solely responsible for all the decisions made in their case lifecycle. Also, dual-status cases (Dependency and Delinquency) where the justice system was not the lead decision maker were removed. Lastly, cases where ethnicity/race was not available were excluded. This cleaning of the data resulted in a final sample size of 966 for instant offense referrals to track through the decision points.

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<sup>6</sup> 2018 was the most complete dataset available at the start of the study.

## Measures

The study started with the hypothesis that no racial/ethnic disparities exist in San Diego County's juvenile justice system (i.e., the null hypothesis) as measured at three decision points. Starting from the population of youth who were referred to probation, the analysis tested the hypothesis following the OJJDP model and compared each decision point to the previous one. The three decision points at which this hypothesis test were:



Important data collected for each individual included:

- Demographics (race, gender, age);
- Prior criminal history (arrests, bookings, true findings, and commitments);
- Prior highest charges and prior charge severity;
- Highest charge and charge level for the instant offense (referral in 2018); and
- Socioeconomic status, family, and school covariates of those youth with a true finding.

This study utilized research and expertise in the field (e.g., The Hayward Burn Institute, Annie E. Casey Foundation, OJJDP) to identify possible covariates to a youth's juvenile justice involvement. A detailed list of the covariates and how they were operationalized is in Appendix C, and included:

- School attendance and performance;
- Criminal history (high charge);
- Family structure and guardianship;
- Living arrangement;
- Gang involvement;
- Prior history of physical, emotional, and other abuse; and
- Current or past substance use/mental health concerns.

For each decision point only data known to the "decision maker" (e.g. Probation Officer, Judge, DA) at the time of decision were included for the analysis/model. For example, school attendance and performance (collected on the Social Study) were not analyzed for the Detention Decision as the DCU Office did not know about the youth's school enrollment at the time to decide booking.

## Data sources & collection

Data on the 966 youth were collected from the Probation Case Management System (PCMS). PCMS is the current web-based application Probation Officers, institution officers and staff, and court personnel use to track mandatory data for youth. Two methods were used to collect the data: electronic extract and manual coding. The former involved receiving data extracts from PCMS to include:

- Detention Confinement Unit assessments (DCU forms);
- SDRCC-II risk to recidivate scores for each youth;
- All juvenile justice involvement data (criminal history of bookings, referrals, petitions and adjudication outcomes, and commitments); and
- Demographic data for these youth (e.g. date of birth, race/ethnicity).

Other probation data extracts included the 2018 type of incident and information for Use of Force and Restraint while detained in Juvenile Hall and Room Confinement in detention.

The data collection method from PCMS involved manual coding of all 966 cases by trained SANDAG staff. Assessments (e.g., the Social Study, Juvenile Services Fast Track memo) and other Memos to the Court were primary resources used to collect many covariate measures (previously noted). These are inherent with archival data limitations such as: missing data, variance in the reports (primary sources) as there are a variety of report authors, limitations to only being able to code data as it is presented, and sometimes conflicting data. SANDAG attempted to mitigate limitations by performing the following data validation and quality control protocols:

- Training on data collection for all SANDAG staff coding cases and interrater reliability testing after training was greater than 90%;
- Maintaining weekly quality control meetings to have research team committee review data when there were questions or inconsistencies;
- SANDAG staff had project managers and assistant project managers readily available to mentor data collection when there were questions;
- Maintaining both instructions and coding manual for data collecting standardization (see Appendix D);
- Having up to two staff review each case for quality control and to eliminate scoring bias;
- Identifying rules as a committee (included in manual) to rectify data differences when there were multiple data sources in PCMS reporting; and
- Maintaining data cleaning and validation through to the analysis.

As noted in the sample section, occasionally results of the manual data collection warranted removal of referrals from the sample (e.g. out of county transfers). Furthermore, unlike previous DMC studies that did not have to address the sealed case process, SANDAG staff worked closely with the Probation team to gain special access to PCMS for sealed cases only for the purpose of data collection; therefore, no cases were removed from the sample due to sealed data. For both manual and extracted data, Probation was consulted for questions and anomalies.

Lastly, juvenile arrest data were provided from Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) for all youth arrested in 2018 between the ages of 10-17 and San Diego County population data were extracted from the SANDAG 2018 Population Estimates trimmed for all youth between 10-17.

## Analyses plan

Prior to selecting a sample and designing the final methodology for the study, the Relative Rate Index (RRI) was calculated for the entire sample (including duplicates) to identify if disproportionate representation existed. The RRI provides the rate of activity involving minority youth divided by the rate of activity involving White youth and it is the first step recommended by OJJDP. Any number more than 1 indicates disproportionality. Once completed, the decision was made to conduct an in-depth study (this current study) to determine what factors were contributing to the over representation.

The analyses in this study involved both bi-variate and multivariate analysis. Only information available to the justice professionals at a specific decision point was included in the analysis, with additional information added to the analysis as a case progressed in the decision tree. Chi-square tests for independence and t-tests for differences in means were first run to describe the sample population and identify any significant difference. These analyses were then followed by multi-variate analysis.

To test the null hypothesis – *there are no racial/ethnic disparities in San Diego County’s juvenile justice system*, three logistic regression models were fit using the LASSO (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator).<sup>7</sup> Each model categorized the decision points into binary variables (i.e., yes/no detained, yes/no true finding, yes/no committed). To test if a relationship between race/ethnicity and the outcome of the decision, White youth were the reference group and each model included all explanatory variables available at the decision point. For Model 1, if a youth was detained (yes/no) as a result of referral included demographics (age, gender, and race/ethnicity), instant offense, prior referrals, detentions, true findings, and commitment (level and type of high charge and number of charges). For Model 2, if a youth received a true finding (yes/no) included all variables in Model 1. For Model 3, testing commitment (yes/no) as a result of true finding included all variables in the prior models, plus data gathered from the Social Study, which included 67 family and psycho/social variables, MAYSI-2 therapy recommendation, and disposition recommendation by Probation. As “Probation’s disposition recommendation” was the predominant variable, an identical model was fit removing this explanatory variable, to explore the importance of the other explanatory variables. In addition, due to the predictive value prior justice contact had in each model, all three models were fit removing prior contact from the explanatory variables.

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<sup>7</sup> The LASSO seeks to minimize the residual sum of squares (as in ordinary least squares) subject to a constraint on the sum of the absolute values of the regression coefficients (l1 norm) being less than or equal to a chosen hyper-parameter. This can be also be thought of as minimizing the residual sum of squares plus the sum of the absolute values of the regression coefficients multiplied by a chosen penalty factor, the hyper-parameter lambda. As a side effect of the absolute value function (l1 norm), the constraint performs fast and efficient model selection allowing the consideration of full models with all explanatory variables in the model selection process. The LASSO encourages more interpretable and predictive parsimonious models as opposed to simply fitting the full model with all possible explanatory variables, using biased and non-exhaustive model selection methods like step-wise model selection, or employing inefficient best subset search algorithms limited to subsets of the full model when too many explanatory variables are in the full model. The penalty factor hyper-parameter (lambda) was selected using 10-fold cross-validation minimizing the area under the ROC curve of the logistic regression model (a measure of how well the model can predict both true positives and false positives simultaneously). As the folds of cross-validation are chosen via a stochastic process, the selection process was run 100 times and the median lambda was chosen as the hyper-parameter in the final logistic regression model fit using the LASSO.

# Results

## Relative Rate Index (RRI)

In alignment with the OJJDP recommendations, the first phase of this study used the RRI to determine if race/ethnicity disproportionality exists and if so, at what decision point in the justice system. As Table 1 shows, when White youth are held as the reference group (i.e., 1.00), with the exception of Other race/ethnicity youth at the commitment stage, all other non-White groups showed some level of overrepresentation at each decision point. The most pronounced overrepresentation was among Black youth at point of detention who were over two times (2.13) more likely to be detained than White youth, with both Hispanic (1.35) and youth of Other race/ethnicities (1.40) also overrepresented. While the overrepresentation was smallest at the true finding decision point, it was substantial for both Black (1.77) and Hispanic (1.84) youth at point of commitment. Youth of Other race/ethnicity were less likely than White youth to receive a commitment (.61).

Table 1

### Relative rate indices of sample by race/ethnicity

	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Detention	1.00	2.13	1.35	1.40
Petition true finding	1.00	1.17	1.15	1.14
Commitment	1.00	1.77	1.84	.61

Note: Detention days were counted 0 to 2 days post referrals to filter out any youth held in Juvenile Hall while waiting for pickup and/or prior to the detention hearing.

Source: SANDAG

When examining the overall percentages compared to the prior decision point (as opposed to the White youth reference group), the pattern illuminates how a larger proportion of Black and Hispanic youth become entangled in the system from the first point of entry. While Black youth comprised 4% of San Diego County’s population of 10 to 17year-olds in 2018, they accounted for 15% of all juvenile arrest 2018 arrests, and this overrepresentation continued at the point of referral (16%) and detention (25%). Ultimately, Black youth comprised nearly six-times the proportion of commitments (the end point of the system) compared to the proportion of Black youth population in the County. Hispanic youth were also overrepresented but have a slightly different trend. After the entry point into the system they accounted for over half of arrests (55%), but only 47% of the population, their proportions at each proceeding decision point were slightly smaller than the prior one, until the last decision point. While Hispanic youth comprised 51% of those with a true finding, they comprised 61% of youth who received a commitment. Conversely, both White youth and youth of Other race/ethnicities were underrepresented at each point (Table 2).

Table 2

### Proportion of youth by race/ethnicity at each juvenile justice decision point

	Black	Hispanic	White	Other
Population	4%	47%	32%	16%
Arrests	15%	55%	21%	8%
Arrest rate per 1,000	39.27	12.59	7.31	5.60
Referrals	16%	51%	24%	8%
Detention	25%	50%	17%	8%
Petition filed	21%	50%	20%	9%
Petition True Finding	22%	51%	18%	9%
Commitment	23%	61%	12%	3%

Note: Arrests rates may not match the rates in SANDAG’s Arrests 2018: Law Enforcement Response to Crime in the San Diego Region report, as data were gathered from ARJIS and not from the Department of Justice.

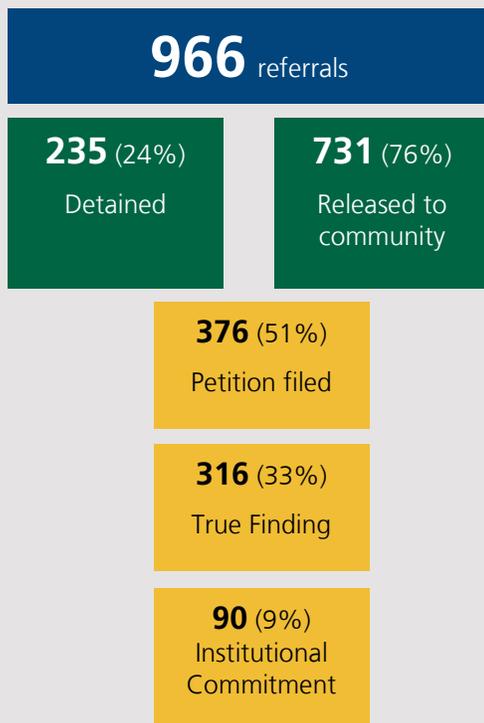
Source: SANDAG

## Sample description – Legal characteristics

Figure 1 illustrates the flow of the sample cases from initial referral (n=966) through commitment (n=90 or 9% of referrals). The analysis examined the characteristics of youth through the lens of information available to the decision maker at each decision point. For example, the decision to detain a youth pre-adjudication is dependent on the Detention Control Unit’s (DCU) assessment which is limited to information on current and past juvenile justice involvement and how the youth presents at intake (e.g., under the influence, mental stability). The overall sample description is based on information available at the time of referral and more information is discussed at each stage of the process.

Figure 1

### RRED study sample decision making case flow



*Note: Cases without race/ethnicity specified were coded as missing, which reduced the sample to 966. The 376 petitions filed include the original referral that qualified the case for inclusion in the sample. However, it is possible the eligible referral was bundled with other probation referrals that occurred at different times and may not be the one that was true found. These cases were included in the sample because it was still part of the decision-making process. Of the 316 cases with a true finding, 36 were subsequently transferred out-of-county and therefore not eligible for placement disposition.*

Source: SANDAG

### Key decision makers and information available

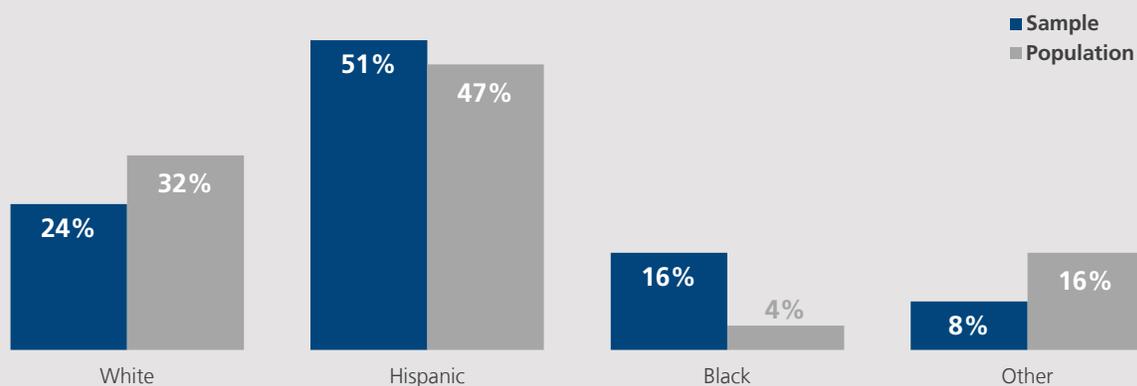
- 1) **Referral and booking (District Attorney and DCU Officer)**
  - Arrest report
  - Youth’s substance use/affect at booking
  - Type and level of instant charge
  - Prior Probation involvement
  - Current Probation status
  - DCU form
- 2) **True Finding (DA, Public Defender, the Court)**
  - All the above
  - Social Study (background characteristics of youth)
  - Prior delinquent behavior
  - SDRRC-II
- 3) **Commitment (The Court)**
  - All the above

## Characteristics for youth at point of referral

Just over half of the random sample of juveniles with qualifying referrals were Hispanic youth (51%), followed by one-quarter (24%) White youth, 16% Black youth, and 8% youth of Other race/ethnicities (Figure 2). As noted in Figure 2 compared to their proportion in the population, Black youth represented 4-times the proportion of referrals and Hispanic youth to a lesser degree, were also overrepresented; however, White youth and youth of Other race/ethnicities<sup>8</sup> were underrepresented. Most of the sample were male (73%) and the average age at time of referral was 15.9 years-old (SD = 1.61).

Figure 2

### Race/ethnicity of sample and 2018 San Diego County population 10 to 17-years old



Note: Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.

Source: SANDAG

On average, a youth had two (2.08;  $SD=2.01$ ) charges per referral, with Black youth having the most (2.43;  $SD=2.18$ ) and White youth having the fewest (1.80;  $SD=1.36$ ), which was a statistically significant difference. Both Hispanic youth (2.08;  $SD=2.25$ ) and youth of Other race/ethnicity (2.23;  $SD=1.49$ ) had a similar number of charges. These differences are important because the more charges on a referral and/or petition can increase the likelihood of continuing to the next decision point in the system.

Examination by highest (or most serious) charge type and level of the instant offense referral (i.e., the sampled Probation referral) showed around two-in-five (37%) referrals were for a violent offense, followed by 17% for property and 16% alcohol and/or other drug (AOD) offenses, other offenses<sup>9</sup> (12%), status offenses (13%) (i.e., an offense specific to being under the age of 18 years old), and 5% were a weapons offense (Table 3).

<sup>8</sup> Other race/ethnicities included Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Middle-Eastern and multi-racial.

<sup>9</sup> Other offenses included City/County Ordinances, Failure to Appear (FTA), and traffic codes.

Table 3

**Level and type of referral charge**

	Percentage of Referred (n=966)
Felony	40%
Misdemeanor	41%
Probation violation	14%
Status	4%
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Person (violent)	37%
Property	17%
AOD	16%
Other	12%
Status	13%
Weapon	5%

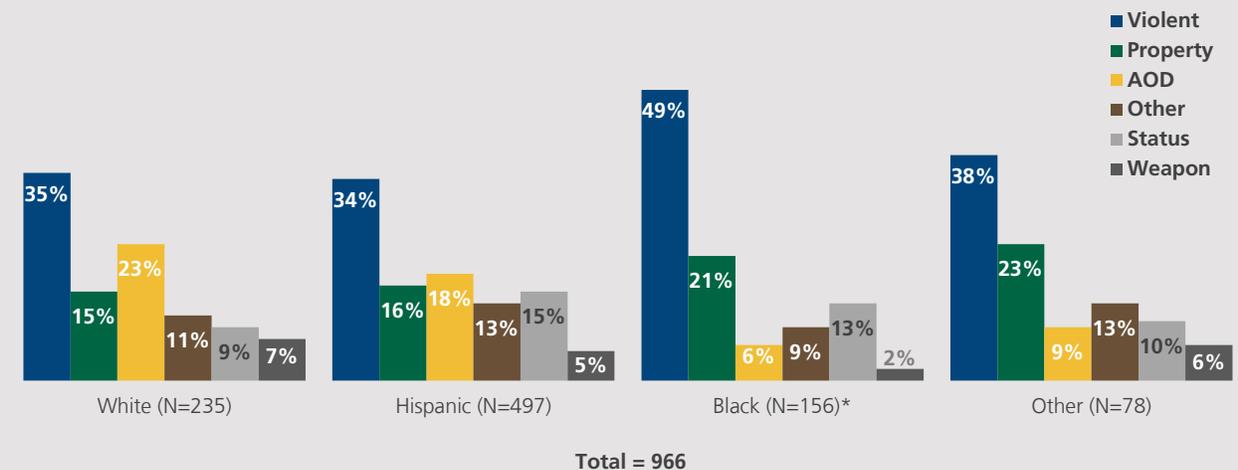
Note: Case may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: SANDAG

When examined by race/ethnicity, a significantly larger proportion of Black youth had a referral for a violent offense (49%) and had the smallest proportion of AOD referrals (6%), compared to all other youth. White youth had the largest proportion of referrals for AOD charges (23%), with violent offenses accounting for two in five (35%) referrals and 9% for a status offense. Except for status (15%) and AOD (18%) offenses, Hispanic youth’s violent (34%) and property (16%) charges trended similarly to White youth (Figure 3).

Figure 3

**Instant offense crime type by race/ethnicity**



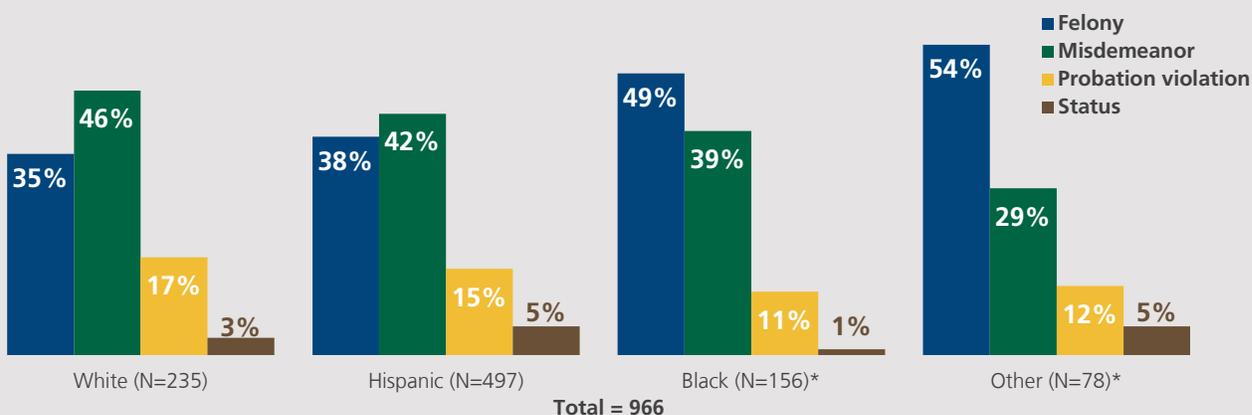
Note: Cases may not equal 100% due to rounding. \*Significant at p<.05

Source: SANDAG

There was a similar proportion of referrals for felony (40%) as misdemeanor (41%) level offenses, followed by probation violation (14%), and status offenses (4%) (Table 4). Analysis by race/ethnicity showed a significantly larger proportion of youth of Other race/ethnicity (54%) than White youth (35%) had a felony-level referral. About one-half (49%) of Black youths' and two in five (38%) of Hispanic youths' instant offense was at the felony level.

Figure 4

### Instant offense crime level by race/ethnicity



Note: Cases may not equal 100% due to rounding. \*Significance at  $p < .05$ .  
Source: SANDAG

## 1 2 3 Characteristics of youth detained pre-adjudication

Of the 966 referrals, about one-quarter (24%) were detained pre-adjudication, with a greater proportion of referrals for felony-level (74%) and violent offenses (64%) detained compared to misdemeanor-level (26%) and all other types of offenses (<1% to 16%) (Table 4).

Table 4

### Level and type of detention charge

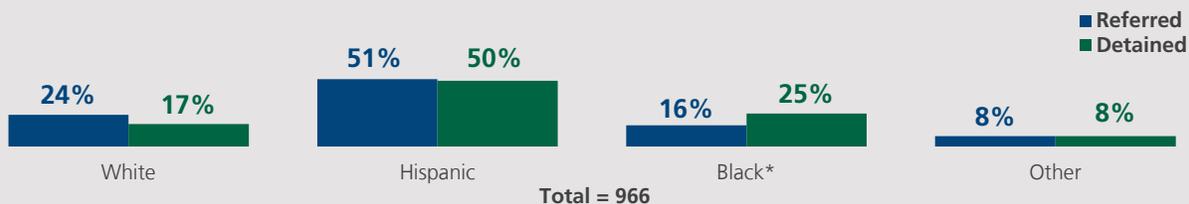
	Percentage Referred	Percentage Detained
Felony	40%	74%
Misdemeanor	41%	26%
Probation violation	14%	<1%
Status	4%	0%
<hr/>		
Violent	37%	64%
Property	17%	16%
Drug/alcohol	16%	11%
Other	12%	5%
Status	13%	<1%
Weapon	5%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>235</b>

Note: Cases may not equal 100% due to rounding.  
Source: SANDAG

A similar proportion of males (77%) and females (23%) were detained as were referred (73% and 27%, respectively) and the average age at both points was 16 years old (SD= 1.61 and SD=1.42, respectively) (not shown). However, detainment varied significantly by race/ethnicity, with a larger proportion of Black youth detained (25%) than their proportion of referrals (16%) and fewer White youth detained (17%) than referred (24%). Both youth of Hispanic (50%) and Other race/ethnicities (8%) were detained proportionate to their referrals (Figure 5).

Figure 5

**Detainment compared to Referrals by race/ethnicity**



\* Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

At the point of detention, it is a best practice in the field to use an objective assessment to guide detention decisions. In San Diego County, the Probation Department uses a Detention Control Unit (DCU) screening form with all youth brought to Juvenile Hall for possible booking. This DCU screening form has evolved and been modified several times to align with current best practices. Analysis showed most referrals did not have an associated DCU form, indicating they were never brought to Juvenile Hall for a possible booking; however, this did not occur proportionally among all youth. Specifically, twice as many Black youths had been brought to Juvenile Hall for possible booking (40%), compared to White youth (20%), suggesting they were the least likely to be diverted or released to home following an arrest. A similar proportion of Hispanic (27%) and youth of Other race/ethnicity (28%) were brought to Juvenile Hall (Figure 6).

**87%** of youth who were administered a DCU screening were detained

**82%** of these youth detained were held as a result of an override decision, rather than the DCU score

**91%** of females received an override compared to **77%** of males

Of the youth who did receive a DCU screening, 4% had a charge or offense that required a mandatory detainment, and 87% were detained because they met the detention score threshold or received an override to detain (example of override reasons include victim was in the home or it is not safe for victim, youth crossed border with drugs). More specifically, if a DCU score was below the threshold for detention (i.e., less than 10), a DCU Probation Officer could “override” the score and detain the youth. Analysis of the DCU scores showed an override occurred 82% of the time resulting in the youth detained rather than released to home supervision. Conversely, in 3% of the cases the override decision led the youth to be released to home supervision, instead of detained as the score indicated. There was no difference by race/ethnicity in who received an override for detention. However, while there was no gender difference in the proportion of females (21%) and males (25%) detained overall, more females (91%) received an override to detain compared to males (77%).

Figure 6

**Administered a DCU screening for possible detention by race/ethnicity**



Note: Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

## Box 2

# An analysis of the use of force and room confinement of youth detained in Juvenile Hall

As part of this study, SANDAG conducted separate analyses of institution data gathered while a youth was detained at Juvenile Hall to see if there were racial/ethnic and/or gender disparities when officers use force/ restraint with youth (e.g. place in secure hold, use of OC spray, touch to redirect), and if there were disparities when youth were placed on room confinement (required to remain in room alone). Unlike the main study, these data were not linked to the sampled youth, but rather are three separate data sets of all bookings, room confinements, and use of force in 2018.<sup>10</sup> Sample youth could be in the data sets multiple times, only in one dataset, not in any, or other combinations. Therefore, one youth could account for several incidents. In all three data sets, the representation of Hispanic and Black youth was significantly higher than White youth.<sup>11</sup> In 2018, of the 1,528 bookings, there were 4,865 use of force incidents documented, with a significantly greater proportion involving Hispanic youth (57%) and Black youth (28%) compared to bookings (52% and 25%, respectively). White (10%) and youth of Other race/ethnicity (5%) comprised fewer use of force incidents than the proportion booked (15% and 8%, respectively). No gender differences in use of force were detected (Table 1).

Analysis of the 1,663 room confinement incidents showed that Black youth comprised a larger proportion of room confinements (32%) than their proportion booked (25%). The proportion of all non-Black youth reflected their booking proportions. When examined by gender, Black females were significantly over-represented in room confinements. Specifically, the Black female room confinements were double their bookings (21% of bookings and 43% of room confinement). This finding was the opposite for all non-Black female race/ethnicity groups, where rates of confinement were significantly lower than bookings (Table 6). As California law only allows youth to be confined for up to 4 hours at a time without re-assessment, length of confinement was explored. This analysis revealed only 10 (<1%) room confinements were longer than 4 hours.<sup>12</sup>

Use of force data (hold and restraint) contains information on the role of the youth during that incident (e.g., youth was victim, witness, or perpetrator). The role of a youth was significantly different between race/ethnicities. While BIPOC were most often identified as the perpetrator (80% to 85%) and the least likely as the victim (3% to 6%), White youth were identified as the perpetrator 64% of incidents and as a victim 12%. White youth were also more often classified in an "Other" role (24%) compared to all Hispanic (14%), Black (16%), and youth of Other race/ethnicity (9%) (Figure 7).

Table B1

### Characteristics of detentions, use of force, and room confinement incidents in 2018

	Bookings*	Use of Force*	Room confinement*
White	15%	10%	13%
Hispanic	52%	57%	51%
Black	25%	28%	32%
Other	8%	5%	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>4,865</b>	<b>1,663</b>

Note: Ethnicity/race proportions were significantly different for all ethnicity/race groups by Bookings, Use of Force, and Room Confinement Incidents. \*Significant,  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

Table B1

### Race/ethnicities by gender for room confinements in 2018

Race/ethnicity by gender	% of booking and room confinements	
	Bookings*	Room confinement
<b>Black</b>		
Female*	21%	43%
Male	26%	30%
<b>Hispanic</b>		
Female	8%	7%
Male	7%	5%
<b>Other</b>		
Female	12%	5%
Male	7%	5%
<b>White</b>		
Female	26%	19%
Male	12%	12%

Note: \*Significant,  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

<sup>10</sup> The data were recorded by incident and not youth, so there could be multiple bookings, incidents, and/or confinements involving the same youth.

<sup>11</sup> \*Significant  $p < .05$

<sup>12</sup> To maintain data anonymity and security, ethnicity, and gender data for the 10 confinement cases were suppressed.

## 1 2 3 Characteristics of youth at point of petition file and true finding

Of all the sample youth, 44% had a petition filed based on the referral by the DA, of which 84% resulted in a true finding.<sup>13</sup> As Table 5 shows, from the point of referral to petition filing fewer White youth had a petition filed (20%) compared to referred (24%) and conversely more Black youth had a petition filed (21%) than referred (16%). Both Hispanic (51%) and youth of Other race/ethnicity (8%) had a similar proportion of referrals and petitions filed (50% and 9%, respectively). None of these differences were significant. In addition, there were no gender or age differences between those cases filed and those found to be true.

Table 5

### Characteristics of youth with Referrals compared to Petition Filed and True Finding

	Referrals	Total Petitions Filed	True Finding
Male	73%	77%	78%
Female	27%	23%	22%
White	24%	20%	18%
Hispanic	51%	50%	51%
Black	16%	21%	22%
Other	8%	9%	9%
Age	15.9 (1.6)	15.9 (1.5)	15.9 (1.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>316</b>

Source: SANDAG

Of the youth who had a petition filed, two-thirds (66%) were for a felony-level petition charge and one-third (33%) for a misdemeanor. As for type of offense, over half (53%) of petitions filed were for a violent offense, followed by property offenses (25%) and less than one in ten for an AOD (9%) or weapon offense (8%). The smallest proportion of filings were for other types (4%) of offenses and a status offense (<1%). The level and type of offenses that resulted in a true finding were similar to the proportion filed, indicating that once a petition is filed it is likely to be sustained (Table 6)

Table 6

### Level and type of Referral charges compared to Petitions Filed and True Findings

	Referrals	Petition Filed	True Found
Felony	40%	66%	68%
Misdemeanor	41%	33%	32%
Status	4%	0%	0%
Probation violation	14%	<1%	0%
Violent	37%	53%	55%
Property	17%	25%	24%
AOD	16%	9%	9%
Other	12%	4%	4%
Status	13%	<1%	<1%
Weapon	5%	8%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>316</b>

Note: Cases may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: SANDAG

<sup>13</sup> When a petition is filed, it is possible that other referrals are bundled into one petition resulting in multiple charges. For this study, the instant offense referral may have been dropped from the filing, but the petition was still included in the analysis because it was not possible to determine the weight the instant offense referral had in the overall decision.

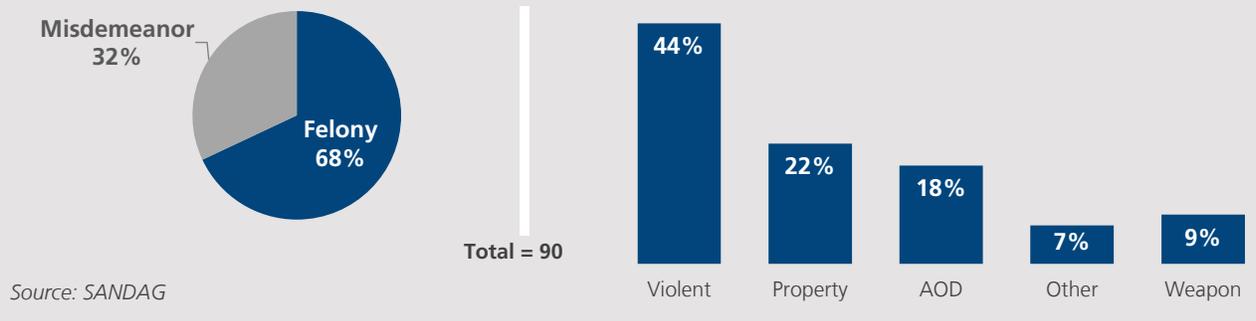


### Characteristics of sample youth with a commitment

The final stage in the decision process reviewed for this report was the outcome of the true finding or the disposition. Of those youth with a true finding, 32% received a commitment. Of all commitments, the greatest proportion was for a felony-level (68%) offense compared to a misdemeanor (32%).<sup>14</sup> Most commitment types were for a violent offense (44%), followed by property (22%) and AOD (18%) offense, and less than one in ten were for a weapon (9%) or other (7%) offense.

Figure 7

#### Level and type of Commitments



Analysis of youth characteristics showed no significant gender or age differences between having a true finding and receiving a commitment. Around 9 out of 10 males (86%) received a commitment and the average age was 16 years old (Table 7).

Table 7

#### Characteristics of cases with a True Finding compared to a Commitment

	True Finding	Commitment
Male	81%	86%
Female	19%	14%
White	19%	12%
Hispanic	52%	61%
Black	20%	23%
Other	8%	3%
Age	16.1 (SD=1.46)	16.0 (SD=1.40)
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>90</b>
Person (violent)	53%	44%
Property	24%	22%
AOD	8%	18%
Other	7%	7%
Status	<1%	0%
Weapon	8%	9%
Felony	61%	68%
Misdemeanor	39%	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>90</b>

Note: Of the true finding cases, 36 were transferred out of county and were not included in the sentencing phase.

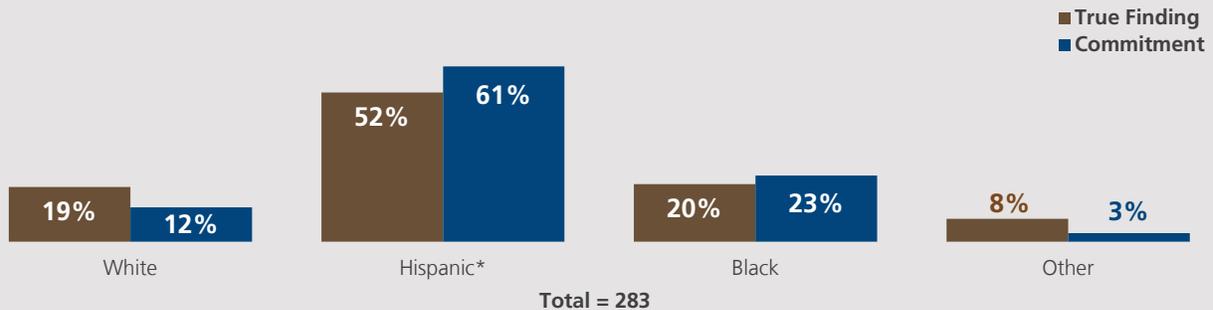
Source: SANDAG

<sup>14</sup> While only the highest charge associated with commitment is reported, nearly half (49%) of the petitions had Harvey Waiver, which could have included more serious charges that were not included in the final true finding and commitment, but were taken into consideration during disposition. For example, a commitment with a high charge at the misdemeanor level could have had felony-level charges associated with a Harvey Waiver that would not be noted on the youth's record.

However, Hispanic youth were more likely to receive a commitment (61%) compared to the proportion who had a true finding (52%) (the decision point prior that made him/her eligible for disposition) and conversely, fewer White youth (12%) and youth of Other race/ethnicity (3%) received a commitment compared to their proportion who had a true finding (19% and 8%, respectively). A similar proportion of Black youth received a commitment (23%) as had a true finding (20%).

Figure 8

**True Finding and Commitments by race/ethnicity**



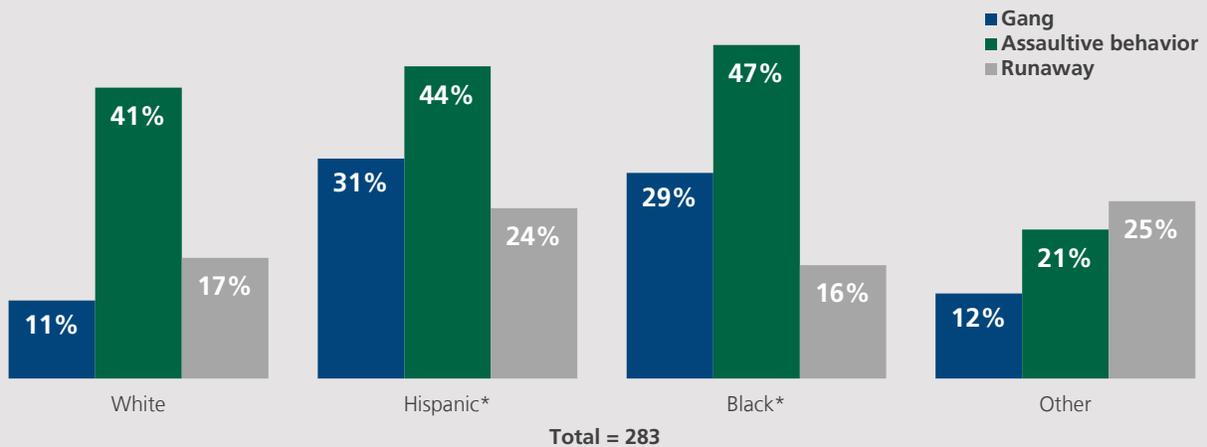
\*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

Gang involvement, history of assaultive behavior, and history of running away from home were additional factors that were available to decision makers for consideration at this point in process. Analyses showed youth with gang involvement noted in their file were significantly more likely to receive an institutional commitment (37%) compared to those without (20%). There was no difference between those youth with a known history of assaultive behavior (40%) and those without (44%), however youth who had a previous runaway episode were significantly more likely to receive a commitment (31% versus 16% without) (not shown). Of these risk factors, only gang involvement was found to have significant racial/ethnic differences, with a significantly larger proportion of Hispanic youth (31%) having a documented gang involvement compared to White (11%) youth, and while not significant at  $p < .05$ , Black youth (29%) had the second largest proportion gang involvement noted in their PCMS file.

Figure 9

**Other risk behaviors by race/ethnicity**



\*Gang involvement significant at  $p < .05$ .

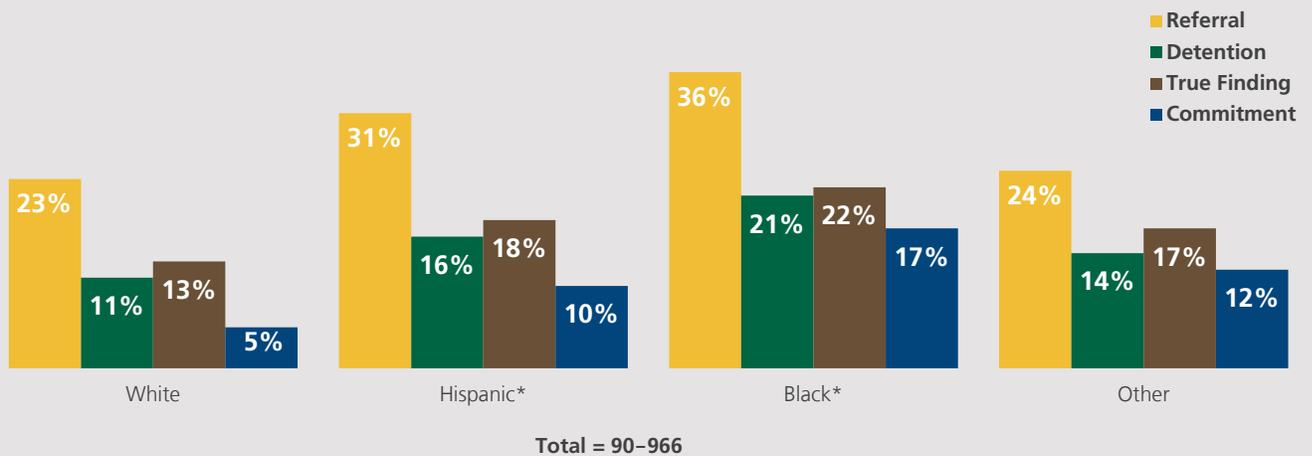
Source: SANDAG

## Characteristics of youth’s prior contact with the justice system

Because prior criminal justice involvement is a factor incorporated into both the DCU form and most validated risk assessments, including the SDRRC-II, it is important to include analysis of any prior contact when studying RED. Consistent with the research (Center for Children’s Law and Policy, 2015; The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2020), a significantly larger proportion of Black and Hispanic youth had been involved with the system. Across all decision points, Black youth were more likely to have prior justice contact than all other youth (36% referral, 21% detention, 22% true finding and 17% institutional commitment), with Hispanic youth following closely (31%, 16%, 18%, 10%, respectively). Conversely, White youth had the least amount of prior justice contact (23%, 11%, 13%, 5%). A similar proportion of youth of Other race/ethnicity had a prior referral (24%) and detention (14%) as White youth but had a greater proportion of true findings (17% compared to 13%) and commitments compared to White youth (Figure 10). Prior contact is especially pertinent to any discussion of RED, because of the self-perpetuating role it has on a youth’s most recent offense and associated outcome.

Figure 10

### Prior juvenile justice involvement by race/ethnicity



\*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

## Sample description – Non-legal characteristics

As noted previously, after a youth receives a true finding and before the disposition, more information is gathered on their background and characteristics. It is during this time period the SDRRC-II is administered and a Social Study completed.<sup>15</sup> The SDRRC-II is a risk and needs assessment to determine the level of risk for recidivism and the Social Study is a detailed documentation of the youth’s history (including psychosocial, family norms, school performance and attendance, mental health considerations and substance use, and history of abuse). This detailed Social Study is authored by Probation, shared with the court, and taken into consideration at disposition at the final commitment decision point. In addition to the Probation Officer’s recommendations, the court hears from both the prosecution and defense council before issuing its opinion. When comparing the Probation Officer’s recommendation for commitment to the dispositional outcome, the data showed that in 8 out of 10 cases (84%) the court accepted the Probation Officer’s recommendation for an institutional commitment.

Guided by research and data available in a youth’s Social Study, a total of 67 variables were gathered on all youth who received a true finding to inform the non-legal factors considered in the predictive analysis. For purposes of analysis, these variables were grouped into five categories that encompass both environmental and personal characteristics that research has shown to influence recidivism and formal justice decisions. The categories include family structure and history, socioeconomics, childhood neglect/abuse, school performance, and substance use/mental health and treatment history (Figure 11). Each of these variables were operationalized and detailed in the data dictionary (Appendix D).

### The role of SDRRC-II

Probation was a frontrunner in adopting the use of a risk assessment to increase the fair treatment of youth in the system. The SDRRC-II is the second version of this assessment. Probation worked closely with its creator to validate the tool and is currently working with Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project (JJSIP) to ensure its reliably applied. However, research warns of the indirect racial bias embedded within risk assessments because of their reliance on prior contacts in the scoring metrics, which can disproportionately impact Black and Hispanic populations. Specifically, different policing practices in low-income communities, implicit bias, and prior RED can perpetuate deeper involvement and disparities. (Campbell, Barnes, Onifade, & Anderson, 2018; Vincent, Chapman, & Cook 2011).

Figure 11

### Non-legal characteristics

Family structure	Socio-economics	Childhood abuse/neglect	School performance	Mental health/ Substance use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Living arrangements</li> <li>Parental risks: substance use, incarceration, domestic violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parental employment</li> <li>Public assistance</li> <li>Homelessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of investigations by child welfare system (CWS)</li> <li>Number and type of substantiated CWS cases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance</li> <li>Academic performance</li> <li>Suspension/Expulsion</li> <li>Individualized Education Plan (IEP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSM 5 diagnosis</li> <li>Mental health hospitalizations</li> <li>Substance use</li> <li>Age of 1st use</li> <li>Substance use treatment</li> </ul>

Source: SANDAG

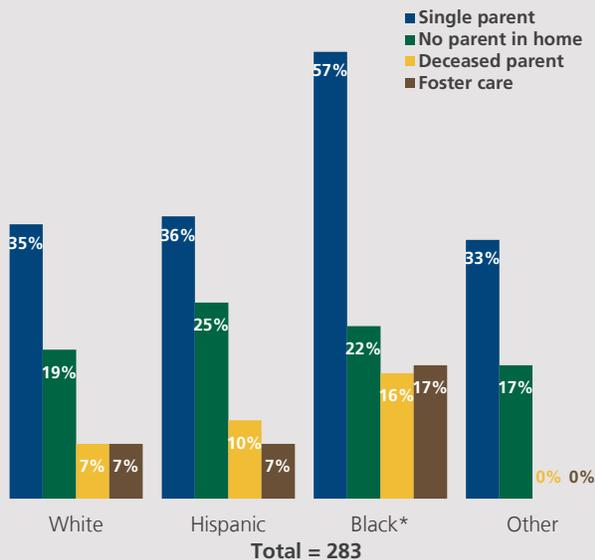
<sup>15</sup> Since the year the sample was drawn was the same year the SDRRC-II was put into practice there was a mix of youth receiving the SDRRC or the SDRRC-II. The result was that there were only 195 SDRRC-II available for data collection and therefore the scores were not included in the analysis because of the number of missing forms. However, the key elements gathered on the SDRRC-II (e.g., prior justice contact, level and type of offense, substance use, etc.) were included in the bi-variate and multi-variate analyses as independent variables.

## Family background and socioeconomics

A review of family characteristics of those youth with a true finding showed that 40% of youth were living with one parent (mother or father), about one-quarter were living with both parents (27%) or not living with either parent (23%), and 11% were living with a parent and step-parent. In addition, about one in ten had been or were in the foster care system (8%) and/or had at least one deceased parent (10%) (not shown). Family interactions with the justice system were prevalent with nearly one-quarter of youth (24%) having a parent who is or has been incarcerated and 14% had a sibling who is or was on probation (not shown). However, the burden of these challenges was not equally distributed by race/ethnicity. Specifically, nearly 6 in 10 (57%) Black youth were living in a home with one parent, 16% had a deceased parent, and 17% were in the foster care system, a larger proportion compared to any of the other race/ethnicities (Figure 12). Black youth also were significantly more likely to have a parent who is or has been incarcerated (43%) compared to all other youth (range 13% to 20%). In addition, over one-third of White (30%) and Black (33%) youth had a parent with a documented substance use issue (Figure 13).

Figure 12

### Living situation by race/ethnicity

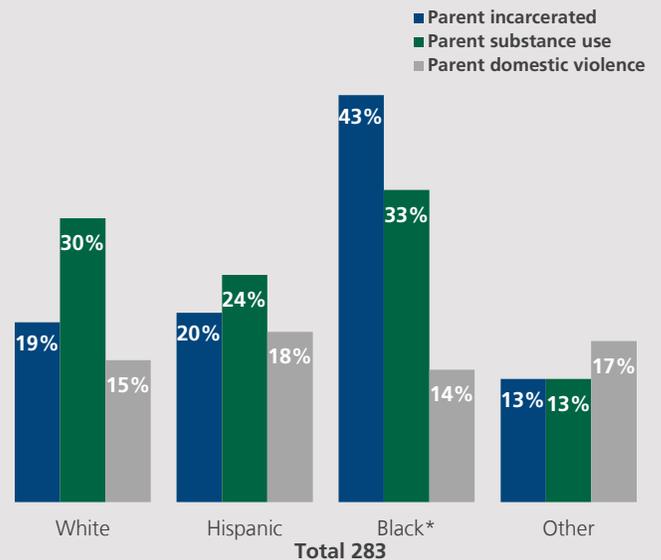


\*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

Figure 13

### Parental risk factors by race/ethnicity

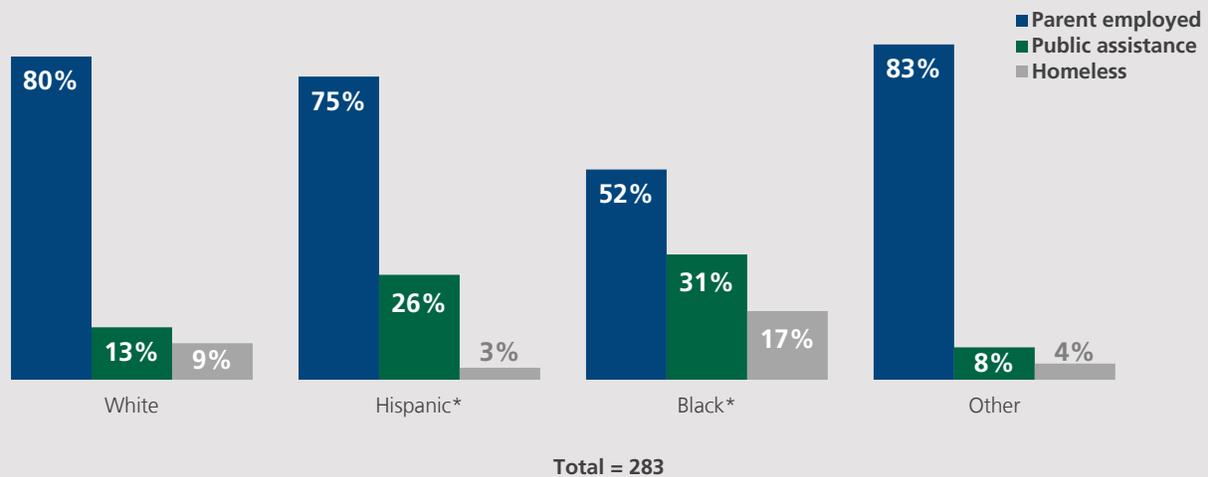


\*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

The research shows that living in poverty has chronic and widespread harmful effects on children and families, including poor health outcomes, increased chances of violent behavior by youth, impaired child development, poor academics, increased risk of child welfare and juvenile justice contacts. Children and youth growing up in lower-economic neighborhoods often attend schools with fewer resources (e.g., lower tax dollars), fewer pro-social resources, food insecurity, and stressors associated with parents struggling to meet the family needs (including working multiple jobs and less involvement with children (Braveman & Egerter, 2008; De Coster, Heimer, & Wittrock, 2006; Engle & Black, 2008; Jensen, Berens, & Nelsen, 2016; Council on Community Pediatrics, 2016). In addition, research has shown youth from lower socioeconomic and distressed neighborhoods are more likely to be confined, even if the underlying intention is to provide supports (Rodriguez, 2013). While household income was not an available variable, factors contributing to poverty were gathered, including parental employment, homelessness, receipt of public benefits, and being a single parent (because of decreased income). Again, a larger proportion of Black youth were living in homes that were economically challenged than other race/ethnicities. Specifically, significantly fewer lived in a home where a parent was employed (52%) and 17% had been homeless at some point. Further, 3 in 10 Black youth lived in homes that were receiving public assistance, as did about one-quarter (26%) of Hispanic youth compared to 13% of White youth and 8% of Other race/ethnicity youth (Figure 14).

Figure 14  
**Socioeconomic factors by race/ethnicity**



\*Significant at  $p < .05$ .  
 Source: SANDAG

These findings are consistent with the national data; disproportionate rates of Black and Hispanic families living in poverty, which tend to have under resourced schools and neighborhoods with higher crime rates. Further, the results align with known racially unjust policies (e.g., redlining, Jim Crow laws, immigration quotas) and practices (e.g. stop and frisk, implicit bias, Black children viewed as more culpable or a threat) that have created barriers to obtaining wealth, and limited academic and employment prosperity. These policy and practices have contributed to placing Black youth at greater risk of contact with the justice system (FitzGerald & Cook-Martin, 2014; Goeff, et al., 2014).

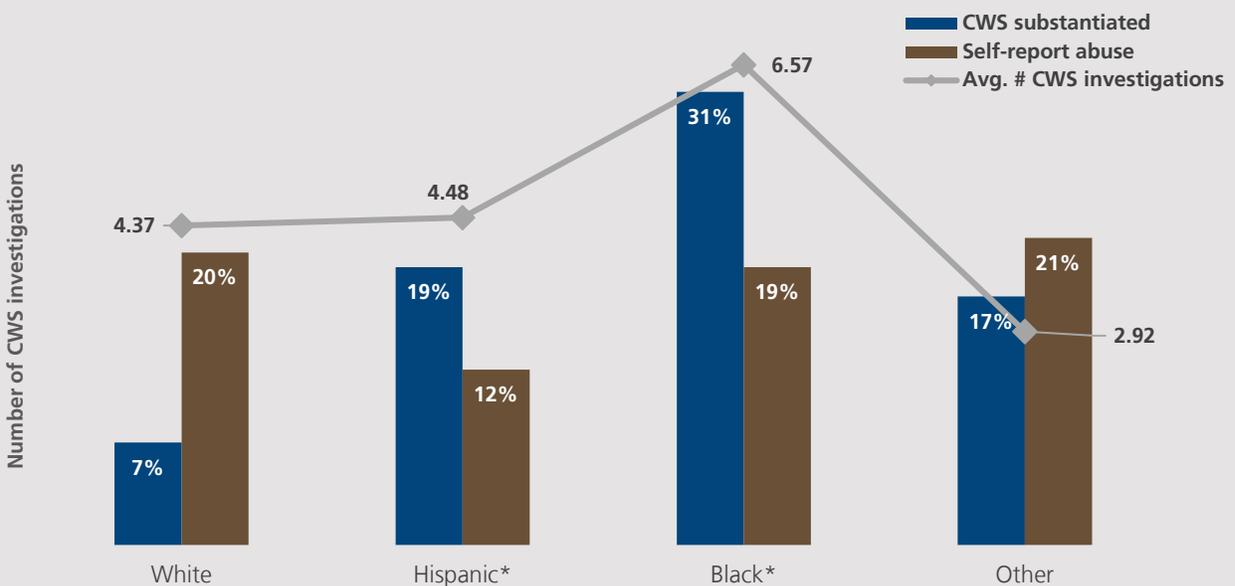
## Abuse and neglect

Given the role of trauma in brain development and negative life outcomes, it was important to collect data on any traumatic events in youths' lives. Because a true trauma indicator/screen score was not available, proxy measures such as divorce, parental incarceration/or death, homelessness, and alleged/corroborated abuse that led to CWS response was captured. While CWS has the youth and family's best interest in mind, it also struggles with RED (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2016). About one in five (19%) of youth with a true finding had at least one substantiated CWS case, with an average (mean) of 4.76 (SD = 6.58) investigations (not shown). However, when examined by race/ethnicity nearly one-third (31%) of Black youth, 19% of Hispanic youth, and 17% of Other race/ethnicity had a substantiated case compared to less than one in ten (7%) of White youth. In addition, Black youth also had significantly more investigations with an average of 6.57 (SD=7.14) calls to CWS, compared to White (4.37; SD=8.96), Hispanic (4.48; SD=5.55) and Other youth (2.92; SD=3.41).

Data on self-reported abuse (either from the child or caretaker) was also gathered from the Social Study, which included emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse. Around two in five youth of Other race/ethnicity (21%), White (20%) and Black (19%) youth had some type of abuse noted in their files, which was significantly higher compared to Hispanic youth (12%).

Figure 15

### Percentage of CWS cases, self-reported abuse, and average number of investigations by race/ethnicity



Total = 283

Note: Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding. \*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

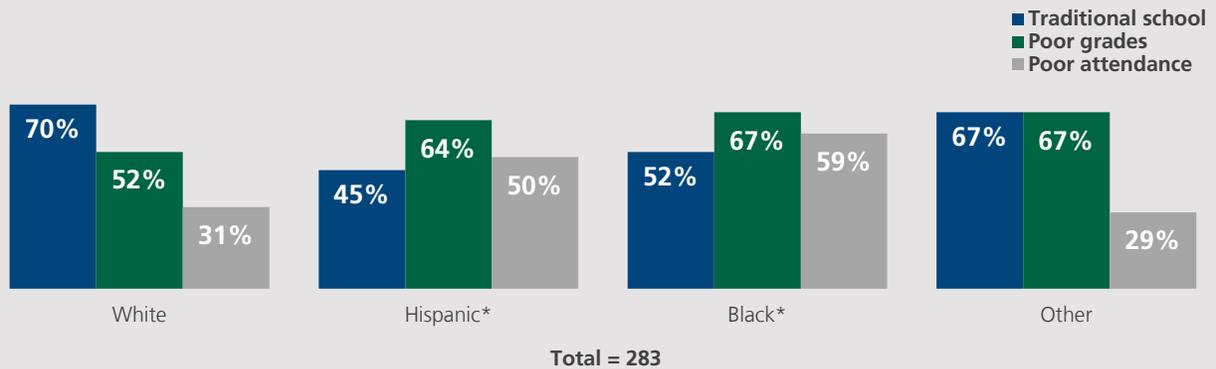
Source: SANDAG

## School performance

Analysis of school data from the Social Study showed that most of the youth overall struggled in school with only around a half (53%) of the youth attending a traditional school (indicating disruption in school), 46% had attendance issues, and nearly two-thirds (63%) had poor grades. However, there were stark differences when examined by race/ethnicity, with significantly fewer Hispanic (45%) and Black (52%) youth attending traditional schools compared to White youth (70%), and a greater proportion having documented attendance problems (59% and 50%, respectively) compared to White youth (31%). These differences were not evident in the documented grades (Figure 16).

Figure 16

### School performance by race/ethnicity



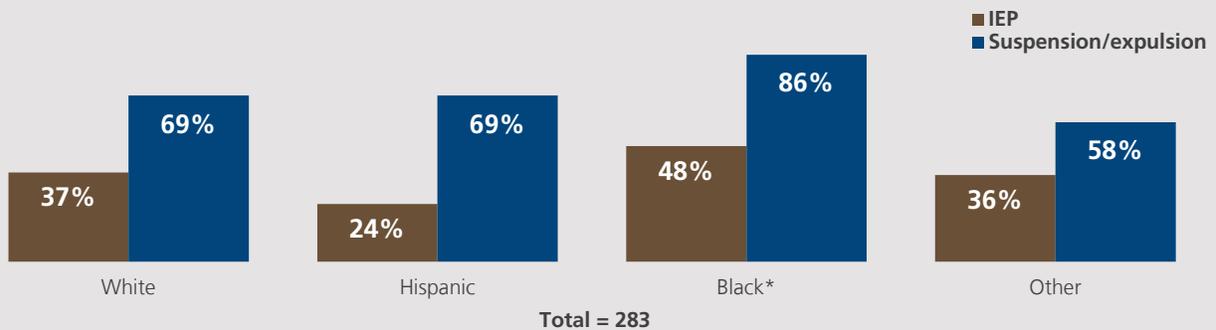
\*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

In addition, about one-third (33%) of youth had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and 71% had at least one documented suspension or expulsion. Significant race/ethnicity differences were also observed in these factors, with Black youth having the largest proportion of IEPs (48%) and suspensions/expulsions (86%) compared to all other youth (Figure 17).

Figure 17

### IEPs and suspension/expulsions by race/ethnicity



\*Significant at  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

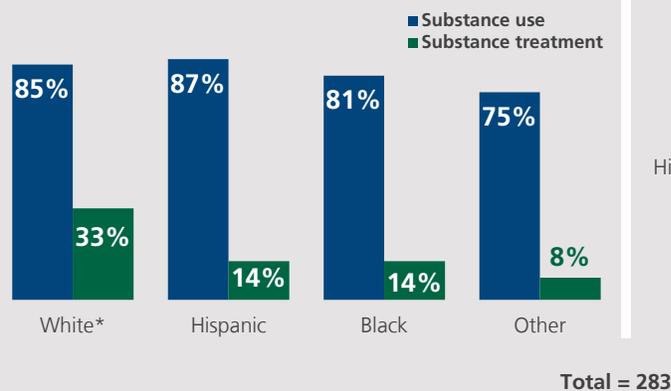
## Mental health and substance use

Research has consistently shown a direct relationship between substance use and involvement in the justice system, both for adults and juveniles (NIDA, 2020). Locally, 62% of youth arrested and booked in Juvenile Hall in 2019 tested positive for one or more illicit substances (Burke, 2020). For the study sample the majority of youth (85%) with a true finding had some type of alcohol or drug use documented in their Social Study, with the average age of first use at 13.2 years old (SD=1.78). While there were no significant race/ethnicity differences in reported use or age at first use, there was a difference in treatment received. Specifically, a significantly greater proportion (33%) of White youth received treatment, compared to Hispanic (14%), Black (14%) and youth of Other races/ethnicities (8%) (Figure 18). It is important to note that without additional information on the severity of use, it is not possible to know what level of treatment, if any, was needed. However, this difference in treatment is consistent with research showing that Black and Hispanic youth are less likely to receive substance use treatment and complete it compared to White youth (Alegria, Carson, Goncalves, & Keefe, 2011; Cummings, Wen, & Druss, 2011). There is also research that has shown racial disparities in the approach to treatment while detained (Spinney, et al., 2016; Aarons, Brown, Garland, & Hough, 2004).

Two indicators were available to assess youths' mental health needs: a self-reported MAYSI-2 score<sup>16</sup> with at least one trauma incident; and documentation of ever receiving mental health treatment. Around half (48%) of the cases with true findings had a documented mental health intervention and 17% had a MAYSI-2 that indicated one incident of trauma (not shown). However, both of these indicators showed that White youth and youth of Other race/ethnicities were significantly more likely to have a MAYSI-2 that included a trauma score (30% and 29%, respectively) and to have received some form of mental health treatment (63% and 67%, respectively) compared to Hispanic (13% and 40%, respectively) and Black youth (9% and 47%, respectively) (Figure 19). These data are somewhat confusing as the documented information on life experiences that could be viewed as traumatic, (i.e., involvement with CWS, domestic violence in the home, parental death or incarceration), did not reflect the small proportion of youth who had a MAYSI-2 with at least one trauma incident. More specifically, a larger proportion of Black and Hispanic youth had these potentially traumatic events in their backgrounds but were the least likely to have reported trauma on the MAYSI-2. This difference in self-reporting and actual traumatic event is important to note, as the MAYSI-2 could trigger different types of services received both in and out of custody (Figure 19).

Figure 18

### Substance use and treatment by race/ethnicity

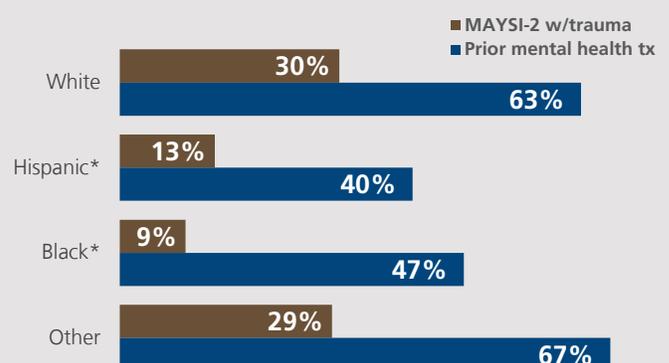


\*Significant  $p < .05$ .

Source: SANDAG

Figure 19

### MAYSI-2 with trauma and prior mental health treatment by race/ethnicity



<sup>16</sup> The MAYSI-2 is a brief behavior health screening that is self-administered by all youth who have a true finding. It is a common assessment used in the juvenile justice field.

It is imperative to examine these data within the contextual framework of structural racism that research has shown to exist, and it is known to have deleterious effects on generations of individuals and families. These data reflect societal inequities that increase the risk for Black and Hispanic youth who come into contact with the system. Specifically, Black and Hispanic youth were more likely to be arrested compared to their representation in the population and had significantly more charges per referral compared to White youth. In addition, implied stress on the family was evident with the larger proportion of Black youth who had family disruption due to parental incarceration, death of a parent, living in foster care, and/or the greater number of CWS referrals and substantiated cases. Economic differences were actualized by the larger proportion of Black youth who had been homeless or living with an unemployed parent or in a family receiving public benefits. The value of framing these findings in history and research to ensure discussions of justice transformation do not occur void of the context that contribute to youth and their families becoming involved in the system at a disproportional rate.

## Factors related to how a youth was processed in the juvenile justice system

An extensive analysis of a representative sample of youth at each juvenile justice decision point verified racial and ethnic overrepresentation was evident among the 2018 sample. Black and Hispanic youth were found to be overrepresented at the front end of the justice system (i.e., point of arrest and referrals compared to the population and for Hispanic youth at the point of commitment). Extensive review of the sample's legal (current offense level and type and prior history) and non-legal background characteristics (e.g., family structure, socioeconomic status, school performance, mental health, substance use) revealed racial/ethnic differences. The last part of the analysis for this study was to determine what factors were predictive of contact in the system and if race/ethnicity had an effect. Starting with the hypothesis that there were no racial/ethnic disparities in the San Diego County juvenile justice system, multivariate analyses were conducted at each decision point (i.e., detention, true finding, commitment) using all data available to identify any factors that could contribute to a youth's involvement and progression to the next decision point. While disproportionate representation was evident at the point of arrest (compared to the population) and referrals, it was not possible to know the universe for potential arrests (i.e., how many juveniles do commit crimes but do not get arrested) or potential referrals to Probation (i.e., how many arrests are diverted). Therefore, further analyses were conducted at these two decision stages. This is an important factor because it is the widest part of the funnel, and prior contact with law enforcement increases future contact as noted on the DCU form and risk assessments. Also, differential policing practices contribute to a disproportionate number of youths entering the system. Acknowledging this limitation, the following analyses are presented to examine the effects of race/ethnicity on the formal juvenile justice system after a youth's arrest.

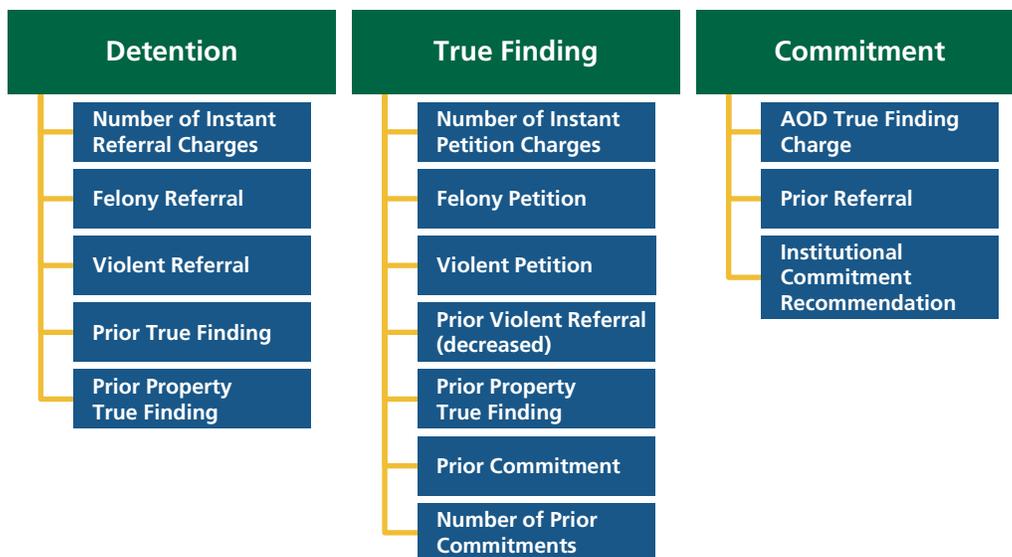
### Did race/ethnicity influence how youth were processed in the juvenile justice system?

Knowing that overrepresentation exists, the next question is to what extent, if any, did a youth's race/ethnicity have on their involvement. When all covariates were held constant (e.g., all cases being equal except for race/ethnicity), only legal factors were found to predict involvement at each of the decision points. Youth demographics (age, gender, and race/ethnicity) **were not found** to predict a youth's involvement at each of the decision points. Further analysis at the point of commitment decision where additional other background factors were available including family characteristics, school performance, socioeconomic background, abuse/neglect, and/or substance use/mental health were also found to not increase the probability of receiving a commitment. Rather, all factors that did increase the probability of a youth continuing to the next point in the juvenile justice decision process pertained to the level or type of the current charge or prior involvement in the system.

Figure 20 shows the specific factors that were significantly associated with an increased probability of contact/involvement at each stage. At the point of **DETENTION**, factors found to increase the probability of being detained were the number of charges on the instant referral (a greater number of charges increased the probability), having a felony-level referral and/or a referral for a violent offense, as well as having a prior true finding and/or having a true finding for a property offense. At the **TRUE FINDING** stage, again the number of charges included in a filed petition, petitions with a felony-level or violent high charge, having a prior true finding for a property offense, as well having a prior commitment and the number of prior commitments all increased the probability of a youth receiving a true finding. However, an interesting finding was the decreased probability if a youth had a prior referral for a violent offense. The reason for this particular finding is unknown and warrants additional discussion among stakeholders.<sup>17</sup> Finally, a youth was more likely to receive a **COMMITMENT** on the true finding with a high charge for an AOD offense, if the youth had a prior referral to probation, or if the recommendation from the Probation Officer was for an institutional commitment.

Figure 20

**Factors significantly associated with detention, petition true finding, and commitment**



Source: SANDAG

To better understand the role of the Probation Officer’s recommendation at the commitment stage, the logistic regression analysis was conducted again without including the Probation Officer’s recommendation. This additional analysis was conducted to learn if the findings showing the influence of legal factors on receiving commitment were true or if the commitment was due to the Probation Officer’s recommendation influence on court’s decision making. The results of this model, without the Probation Officer’s recommendation, did not change the effect legal factors had on the probability of receiving a commitment, confirming that the legal factors (rather than the recommendation) increased the likelihood of a youth receiving a commitment.

<sup>17</sup> This finding was also evident in the simple bi-variate crosstabs.

Furthermore, because of the significance prior justice contact had in the logistic regression models, subsequent models were created to test covariates at each decision point for youth without any prior contacts in the model to better understand the effect demographics and instant offense factors had on the probability of a youth being detained, receiving a true finding, or receiving a commitment. The full results in Appendix A show that the current level and type of charges remained the only variables to increase probability of a youth continuing in the system (i.e., being detained, found true, and committed) and race/ethnicity or any background characteristics did not independently increase the probability of a youth continuing to the next decision point. However, this additional analysis illustrated the influence prior contacts have in the decision process and introducing the indirect effects of race/ethnicity. Given the larger proportion of Black and Hispanic youth who had prior contacts, including this prior justice history into the decision process translates into a greater probability that Black and Hispanic youth will be referred, detained, have a true finding, and receive an institutional commitment than White youth. Further, as research shows, if a youth is at greater risk for arrest due to differential policing or charges or where they live, they are then subject to harsher treatment at each phase and less likely to be diverted out (Bell & Ridolfi, 2008; Lofstrom, Brandon, Goss, & Raphael, 2019; Rodriguez, 2013;). A more detailed examination of the increased probability of involvement at the three critical decision points is detailed below and the associated coefficient tables are in Appendix B.

### Factors related to Detention, True Finding, and Commitment

As noted in the methodology section, only information available to the decision maker at each stage was considered in the logistic regression model, resulting in more data (e.g., covariates) included in each subsequent model. This method is important because at each point the key decision makers have some discretion on how to proceed, but it is based on the information available at that time and therefore the model attempts to replicate this process as much as possible. At the earliest decision point, whether to detain a youth pre-adjudication or not, data available to a decision maker is limited to mostly legal factors as noted in the DCU (e.g. current offense, past justice involvement). The logistical regression model showed that with each additional charge on the instant offense, the probability of a youth being detained increased by 55%, while having an instant offense at the felony-level increased the probability by 68%, and a violent offense increased by 63%. In addition to the current charge, if a youth had a prior true finding their probability of being detained increased by 56%, similar to if she/he had a true finding for a property offense (Table 8).

Table 8

#### Factors that changed the probability of Detainment

	Percent change in probability
Number of referral charges	55%
Felony-level referral	68%
Violent offense referral	63%
Prior true finding	56%
Prior property true finding	54%

Source: SANDAG

At the point of true finding, the number of petition charges, felony and/or violent offenses, as well as prior contacts all increased the probability of a youth sustaining a true finding on a petition. As Table 9 shows, for each additional charge on a filed petition, the probability of being found true increased 52%. Further, having a felony (53%) or violent charge (55%) also significantly increased the probability of being found true. Prior referrals or true finding for a property offense also influenced this decision point (57% and 50% increase, respectively), which could be a point of discussion for stakeholders as to what past justice contact is of greatest concern when deliberating on a youth’s current instant offense. Finally, having a prior commitment had the greatest effect, increasing the likelihood of receiving a true finding by 62%, which increased by 50% with each additional commitment. Interestingly, another point for discussion was the result that having a prior violent offense decreased the likelihood a youth would be found true on a petition by 31%, a finding which displays an opposite impact compared to all the other findings.

Table 9

**Factors that changed the probability of receiving a True Finding**

	Percent change in probability
Number of petition charges	52%
Felony-level petition	53%
Violent offense	55%
Prior violent referral	-31%
Prior property referral	57%
Prior property true finding	50%
Prior number of commitments	50%
Prior commitment	62%

Source: SANDAG

Once a youth has a true finding, there were only three factors found to significantly increase the likelihood of an institutional commitment, having a true finding for an AOD offense (53%), having a prior referral (52%), and having a Probation Officer’s recommendation for an institutional commitment (90%). To better understand the weight of influence the Probation Officer’s recommendation had on the courts, an identical model was run without this explanatory variable and the same results appeared indicating that both the Probation Officer and the court came to a similar conclusion based on the information available to each of them. Overall, these results suggest that at the point of commitment, most legal and non-legal factors are considered equally without attention to race/ethnicity. However, the more subtle interpretation is the constant presence of prior referrals and true findings and the significant role a youth’s past plays in driving their future.

Table 10

**Factors that changed the probability of receiving a Commitment**

	Percent change in probability
AOD true finding	53%
Prior referral	52%
Probation recommendation	90%

Source: SANDAG

Ultimately, these findings indicate that the juvenile justice system is using the tools at its disposal to make race/ethnicity neutral decisions. However, disproportionate representation does exist indirectly, as prior justice contacts factors in at each of the decision points and Black and Hispanic youth had significantly more prior contacts (i.e., arrests, referrals, true findings, and commitments).

## Discussion/summary

In its continued commitment to providing the most effective and equitable treatment of youth involved in its system, San Diego County juvenile justice stakeholders have undertaken an intense reform process that includes working with some of the best researchers in the field at CJJR revising the SDRRC-II and conducting a validation study; contracting with San Diego State University to conduct professional trainings; and recommissioning this study to identify and address RED.

Utilizing a randomized study from a universe of all youth with a referral to Probation in calendar year 2018, both bivariate and multivariate analyses were conducted to identify RED and possible factors contributing to it. The results affirmed much of the research on disproportionality in the juvenile justice system, with a larger proportion of Black and Hispanic youth entering the system than their proportion in the population and experiencing different levels of overrepresentation at the point of detention and commitment.

The descriptive analyses, which involved legal (i.e., prior justice contact and the type and level of instant offense) and non-legal variables (e.g., family background, socioeconomics, substance use) clearly shows the complexity of needs and risks facing youth in the system, but to a larger extent for Black youth and their families. It is important to view these data within the larger societal context of biased policies and practices that have contributed to the overrepresentation of both Black and Hispanic individuals in the justice system. Systemic racially biased practices and policies have created a wealth gap depriving families and children of resources necessary for economic, educational, and health security, and perpetuates decision making encased in implicit biases, despite it being laced with good intentions or a desire to provide support.

The results of this study showed disproportionate representation existed within the formal juvenile justice system, but race/ethnicity was not a factor in the determination at each decision point (i.e., detention, true finding, and commitment). Specifically, legal factors including level (felony) and charge type (most often violent) were found to increase the probability of continuing in the system. However, prior contact with the system weighed heavily in the decision process, increasing the probability of involvement at each point (i.e., detention, true finding, and commitment). This finding, juxtaposed with the findings that Black and Hispanic youth are overrepresented at different stages, raises the question of the compounding effects of prior system contact of the decision-making process.

The study also analyzed the DCU process and its effect on a youth being detained preadjudication. The results showed that Black youth were more likely than all other youth to be brought to Juvenile Hall for possible detention. In addition, examination of DCU outcomes showed the large proportion of overrides (8 out of 10) that resulted in a youth being detained despite receiving a score that did not meet the threshold for detention. Both these findings are important to note because of the research that argues the best intervention is to divert youth from initial involvement in the system.

The study shows that San Diego County has made great strides to create a race neutral decision-making process. This is evident in the analysis that showed only legal factors, not race/ethnicity, can increase the probability of increased involvement in the decision process. However, while the study did not find any direct racial/ethnic effects at the point of detention, true finding, and commitment, it did highlight the differential needs of the population by race/ethnic and the indirect disparity that exists because of these differences, especially in regard to prior justice involvement. It is important to view these finding within the context of systemic racism that has placed Black and Hispanic youth at greater risk for initial and then subsequent involvement in the system. In synchronicity with current transformative efforts, the following recommendations are put forth for consideration by the juvenile justice decision makers.

## Recommendations

### **Result 1: Disproportionate contact starts prior to entering the juvenile justice system.**

In general, compared to their proportion in the population, Black and Hispanic youth were overrepresented at the point of arrests in 2018. Black youth accounted for nearly 4-times the proportion of arrests (15%) compared to their representation in the population (4%) and Hispanic youth comprised over half (55%) of arrests compared to 47% of the population.

### **Recommendations 1:**

- Continue to support programs in the community that divert youth from having contact with the formal juvenile justice system (e.g. Community Assessment Teams (CAT)<sup>18</sup>, Alternatives to Detention (ATD)<sup>19</sup> and other community-based support services).
- Work with local law enforcement agencies to expand and monitor the use of juvenile diversion across all jurisdictions to ensure consistent and equitable implementation.
- Examine the factors associated with Black youth being brought to Juvenile Hall for possible bookings to determine other points of intervention that could reduce justice involvement (e.g. school discipline, child welfare services, diversion).

### **Result 2: A larger proportion of Black and Hispanic youth had prior contact with the juvenile justice system, which increased the probability of becoming more deeply involved in the system.**

Analysis of prior contact with the justice system showed a greater proportion of Black and Hispanic youth had a juvenile justice history. It is important to view these data within the context that Black and Hispanic youth are historically subject to biased attitudes and practices that place them at greater risk for coming into contact with law enforcement and the justice system. The disproportionately builds upon itself, with prior contact viewed negatively in the decision process thereby perpetuating deeper involvement in the system.

### **Recommendations 2:**

- Require on-going trainings on implicit bias and training on positive youth development for all juvenile justice stakeholders, including law enforcement.
- Continue to support all efforts to divert youth at each decision point, starting with arrest. These could include CAT, law enforcement diversion, ATD, and other community-based prevention and intervention programs,

<sup>18</sup> CAT is part of the continuum of services provided to youth who are at-risk or have come in contact with Probation. CAT is located in the community, services are provided by community-based organizations, and the focus is on prevention services for the youth and/or his/her family.

<sup>19</sup> ATD is also part of the continuum of services and provides an alternative to detention for youth who have come in contact with law enforcement, probation, and/or the courts.

### **Result 3: Disproportionate contact was found to exist at the point of detention and commitment for this sample.**

Compared to the decision point prior (the one that makes the youth eligible for the next decision), a significantly larger proportion of Black youth were detained pre-adjudication (25%) than had a referral to Probation (16%). Hispanic youth had a similar proportion of youth detained (51%), referred (50%), and had a true finding (51%); however, a larger proportion of Hispanic youth with a true finding received a commitment (61%).

### **Recommendation 3:**

- As removal from one's home can be the most severe and traumatic response, any efforts to have the youth remain in the home when safe for him/her and the public should be prioritized.
- Revisit and revise the Detention Control Unit (DCU) screening form with attention to how past contact influences detention decisions.
- Conduct continual monitoring of DCU screening form to ensure fidelity in implementation across the lens of race and gender.
- Conduct quarterly monitoring of overrides as it relates to the DCU screening form.

### **Result 4: Logistic regression analyses of the sample showed no racial/ethnic disparities at any decision point in San Diego County's juvenile justice system.**

Logistic regression analysis conducted at each decision point (i.e., detention, true finding, and commitment) showed a youth's race/ethnicity, age, or gender had no effect on the outcome of the decision. This finding was also found at the point of commitment, when more background information was known about a youth through their Social Study. This additional information did not affect the probability of youth receiving a commitment or not. Only prior contact with the justice system and the number, level, and type of instant offense charges were found to change the likelihood of a youth continuing to the next decision point.

### **Recommendations 4:**

- Address the self-perpetuating cycle set in motion once a youth enters the justice system through continued support of practices and programs that divert or redirect youth from entering the system, such as CAT, law enforcement diversion, and ATD.
- Continue the work with current Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform to develop and implement a disposition matrix to institutionalize the approach of prescribing the least restrictive disposition for each youth who contacts the juvenile justice system.
- Monitor the number of referrals by Probation and law enforcement to early prevention and intervention programs by race and gender throughout San Diego.

**Result 5: Analyses of youths' background including family, school performance, socioeconomic status, abuse or neglect, substance use, and mental health showed a population that crosses many systems, providing opportunities for earlier intervention to prevent future involvement with the justice system.**

The extensive data collection on all youth who had a true finding (the decision point this information is gathered) showed varying degrees of trauma, contact with the Child Welfare System (CWS), challenges in school, and stressors within the youths' families and living situations. In addition, Black and Hispanic youth experienced these stressors to significantly greater degree. This information reinforces the challenge facing the justice system, which is often the last stop on a path paved with earlier warning signs and possible opportunities to intervene sooner to provide needed supports.

**Recommendation 5:**

- Strengthen cross-system collaborations with San Diego County's Child Welfare System, Behavioral Health Services (BHS), and educational systems to intervene sooner and possibly redirect a youth from initial contact with the system.
- Collaborate with initiatives in the schools, including Promise Neighborhoods, to identify youth exhibiting risky behavior and proactively offer supports.

**Result 6: Youth had more disruptive family events and traumatic incidents than indicated on the MAYSI-2 assessment.**

Of the youth with a true finding, less than one in five (17%) had a MAYSI-2 indicating at least one trauma experience. However, the youths' background histories indicated the existence of possible traumatic experiences not captured in the MAYSI-2. This was especially true for Black youth who had the largest proportion of substantiated CWS cases and the largest number, on average, of CWS investigations, were more often living in foster care, and/or had a parent who was or/had been incarcerated or deceased. Hispanic youth also had a greater proportion of these stressors compared to White youth. In addition, both Black and Hispanic youth were less likely to have received treatment for mental health needs or have at least one documented trauma incident on the MAYSI-2 compared to White youth.

**Recommendations 6:**

- Identify a more comprehensive assessment to increase precision in identifying the trauma and mental health needs of the youth.
- Screen all youth in contact with the justice system for mental health needs sooner in the decision-making process.
- Ensure Probation and BHS funded programs in the community provide screening for trauma and mental health to youth at-risk or currently involved in the justice system.
- Expand the partnership with BHS to enhance the capacity to better identify and meet the mental health needs of the youth in the system.

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# Appendices

## Appendix A: No Prior Involvement

Table A1

### Factors that changed the probability of being Detained

	Coefficient	Probability
Instant Referral Charges	.14496052	54%
Instant Felony Referral	.63398194	65%
Crime Against Person Referral	.07267213	52%

Source: SANDAG

Table A2

### Factors that changed the probability of receiving a True Finding

	Coefficient	Probability
Instant Petition Charges	.02019334*	51%
Instant Felony Petition	.11010687	53%

Source: SANDAG

Table A3

### Factors that changed the probability of receiving a Commitment

	Coefficient	Probability
Probation recommendation	.3093323	58%
AOD true finding	1.3507838	79%
Gang	.2110737	55%

Source: SANDAG

## Appendix B: RRED report

Table B1

### Factors that changed the probability of being a Detained

	Coefficient	Probability
Instant Referral Charges	.1874544	55%
Instant Felony Referral	.7673126	68%
Instant Crime Against Person Referral	.5302084	63%
Prior True Finding	.2264664	56%
Property Prior True Finding	.1612231	54%

Source: SANDAG

Table B2

### Factors that changed the probability of receiving a True Finding

	Coefficient	Probability
Instant Petition Charges	.091717224	52%
Instant Felony Petition	.122378063	53%
Instant Crime Against Person Petition	.203899083	55%
Prior Crime Against Person Referral	-.635896504	-32%
Prior Crime Against Property Referral	.281296797	57%
Prior Crime Against Property True Finding	.011667084	50%
Prior Commitments	.007713186	50%
Prior Commitments Ind	.492106661	62%

Source: SANDAG

Table B3

### Factors that changed the probability of receiving a Commitment

	Coefficient	Probability
AOD true finding	.13910256	53%
Prior referral	.09507536	52%
Probation recommendation	2.20760107	90%

Source: SANDAG

## Appendix C: Non-legal factors

Table C1

### Tables for non-legal factors by race/ethnicity

	All	Black	Mexican/ Hispanic	Other	White	p.overall	N
	N=173	N=33	N=90	N=18	N=32		
<b>Probation recommends residential treatment facility (RTF)</b>						0.104	173
No	169 (97.7%)	30 (90.9%)	89 (98.9%)	18 (100%)	32 (100%)		
Yes	4 (2.31%)	3 (9.09%)	1 (1.11%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)		
<b>Probation recommends 602 wardship</b>						0.655	173
No	7 (4.05%)	1 (3.03%)	5 (5.56%)	1 (5.56%)	0 (0.00%)		
Yes	166 (96.0%)	32 (97.0%)	85 (94.4%)	17 (94.4%)	32 (100%)		
<b>Did the PO recommend the youth for an institutional commitment?</b>						0.020	173
No	130 (75.1%)	25 (75.8%)	60 (66.7%)	17 (94.4%)	28 (87.5%)		
Yes	43 (24.9%)	8 (24.2%)	30 (33.3%)	1 (5.56%)	4 (12.5%)		
<b>Is the youth a ward of the state at the time of the referral?</b>						0.289	173
No	172 (99.4%)	33 (100%)	90 (100%)	18 (100%)	31 (96.9%)		
Yes	1 (0.58%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (3.12%)		
<b>Primary Guardian (Parent/Care Provider)</b>						0.008	173
No	108 (62.4%)	27 (81.8%)	56 (62.2%)	6 (33.3%)	19 (59.4%)		
Yes	65 (37.6%)	6 (18.2%)	34 (37.8%)	12 (66.7%)	13 (40.6%)		
<b>Traditional:</b>						.	173
No Mom or Dad Present	31 (17.9%)	6 (18.2%)	18 (20.0%)	2 (11.1%)	5 (15.6%)		
Mom and Dad	56 (32.4%)	5 (15.2%)	27 (30.0%)	10 (55.6%)	14 (43.8%)		
Mom or Dad and a Step-Parent	18 (10.4%)	3 (9.09%)	9 (10.0%)	2 (11.1%)	4 (12.5%)		
Only Mom or Dad (single Parent)	68 (39.3%)	19 (57.6%)	36 (40.0%)	4 (22.2%)	9 (28.1%)		
<b>Deceased parents?</b>						0.415	173
No	154 (89.0%)	28 (84.8%)	80 (88.9%)	18 (100%)	28 (87.5%)		
Yes	19 (11.0%)	5 (15.2%)	10 (11.1%)	0 (0.00%)	4 (12.5%)		
<b>Deceased siblings?</b>						0.233	173
No	170 (98.3%)	31 (93.9%)	89 (98.9%)	18 (100%)	32 (100%)		
Yes	3 (1.73%)	2 (6.06%)	1 (1.11%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)		
<b>Does parent have a history of substance use?</b>						0.728	173
No	132 (76.3%)	23 (69.7%)	70 (77.8%)	15 (83.3%)	24 (75.0%)		
Yes	41 (23.7%)	10 (30.3%)	20 (22.2%)	3 (16.7%)	8 (25.0%)		
<b>Is there history of domestic violence between parents?</b>						0.590	173
No	147 (85.0%)	29 (87.9%)	73 (81.1%)	16 (88.9%)	29 (90.6%)		
Yes	26 (15.0%)	4 (12.1%)	17 (18.9%)	2 (11.1%)	3 (9.38%)		
<b>Is there history of parental incarceration?</b>						0.010	173
No	130 (75.1%)	17 (51.5%)	73 (81.1%)	15 (83.3%)	25 (78.1%)		
Yes	43 (24.9%)	16 (48.5%)	17 (18.9%)	3 (16.7%)	7 (21.9%)		

	All	Black	Mexican/ Hispanic	Other	White	p.overall	N
	N=173	N=33	N=90	N=18	N=32		
<b>Do siblings have a history of probation involvement?</b>						0.513	173
No	150 (86.7%)	26 (78.8%)	79 (87.8%)	16 (88.9%)	29 (90.6%)		
Yes	23 (13.3%)	7 (21.2%)	11 (12.2%)	2 (11.1%)	3 (9.38%)		
<b>Has youth experienced a period of homelessness?</b>						0.011	173
No	163 (94.2%)	27 (81.8%)	88 (97.8%)	18 (100%)	30 (93.8%)		
Yes	10 (5.78%)	6 (18.2%)	2 (2.22%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (6.25%)		
<b>Was/is the youth in the foster care system?</b>						0.014	173
No	166 (96.0%)	28 (84.8%)	88 (97.8%)	18 (100%)	32 (100%)		
Yes	7 (4.05%)	5 (15.2%)	2 (2.22%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)		
<b>Is the youth family receiving public financial support?</b>						0.314	173
No	136 (78.6%)	24 (72.7%)	68 (75.6%)	16 (88.9%)	28 (87.5%)		
Yes	37 (21.4%)	9 (27.3%)	22 (24.4%)	2 (11.1%)	4 (12.5%)		
<b>Is there a parent/guardian who is currently employed and living in the home?</b>						0.007	173
No	36 (20.8%)	14 (42.4%)	17 (18.9%)	2 (11.1%)	3 (9.38%)		
Yes	137 (79.2%)	19 (57.6%)	73 (81.1%)	16 (88.9%)	29 (90.6%)		
<b>What type of school does youth attend?</b>						0.020	173
Other	71 (41.0%)	16 (48.5%)	43 (47.8%)	6 (33.3%)	6 (18.8%)		
Traditional	102 (59.0%)	17 (51.5%)	47 (52.2%)	12 (66.7%)	26 (81.2%)		
Home School	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)		
<b>Poor school attendance</b>						0.144	173
No	93 (53.8%)	14 (42.4%)	46 (51.1%)	13 (72.2%)	20 (62.5%)		
Yes	80 (46.2%)	19 (57.6%)	44 (48.9%)	5 (27.8%)	12 (37.5%)		
<b>Poor school performance</b>						0.348	173
No	64 (37.0%)	10 (30.3%)	36 (40.0%)	4 (22.2%)	14 (43.8%)		
Yes	109 (63.0%)	23 (69.7%)	54 (60.0%)	14 (77.8%)	18 (56.2%)		
<b>IEP</b>						0.007	173
No	123 (71.1%)	17 (51.5%)	72 (80.0%)	10 (55.6%)	24 (75.0%)		
Yes	50 (28.9%)	16 (48.5%)	18 (20.0%)	8 (44.4%)	8 (25.0%)		
<b>Was there an expulsion or suspension noted in social study?</b>						0.112	173
No	56 (32.4%)	5 (15.2%)	31 (34.4%)	7 (38.9%)	13 (40.6%)		
Yes	117 (67.6%)	28 (84.8%)	59 (65.6%)	11 (61.1%)	19 (59.4%)		
<b>Prior use of SUBSTANCE ever</b>						0.243	173
No	35 (20.2%)	10 (30.3%)	14 (15.6%)	5 (27.8%)	6 (18.8%)		
Yes	138 (79.8%)	23 (69.7%)	76 (84.4%)	13 (72.2%)	26 (81.2%)		
<b>Earliest age of substance abuse recorded</b>	13.4 (1.77)	13.9 (1.47)	13.2 (1.97)	13.5 (1.71)	13.5 (1.27)	0.395	124
<b>Has youth received substance abuse treatment?</b>						0.023	173
No	160 (92.5%)	33 (100%)	83 (92.2%)	18 (100%)	26 (81.2%)		
Yes	13 (7.51%)	0 (0.00%)	7 (7.78%)	0 (0.00%)	6 (18.8%)		
<b>Health and Human Services contact</b>						0.011	173
No	144 (83.2%)	22 (66.7%)	75 (83.3%)	16 (88.9%)	31 (96.9%)		
Yes	29 (16.8%)	11 (33.3%)	15 (16.7%)	2 (11.1%)	1 (3.12%)		
<b>Number of dispositions in HHSA report</b>	4.22 (5.66)	7.42 (8.86)	3.73 (4.24)	3.06 (3.32)	2.94 (4.98)	0.003	173

	All	Black	Mexican/ Hispanic	Other	White	p.overall	N
	N=173	N=33	N=90	N=18	N=32		
<b>Abuse was reported or noted, but not reported to formal report to HHSA</b>						0.673	173
No	145 (83.8%)	27 (81.8%)	78 (86.7%)	14 (77.8%)	26 (81.2%)		
Yes	28 (16.2%)	6 (18.2%)	12 (13.3%)	4 (22.2%)	6 (18.8%)		
<b>Mental health intervention</b>						0.097	173
No	91 (52.6%)	18 (54.5%)	54 (60.0%)	7 (38.9%)	12 (37.5%)		
Yes	82 (47.4%)	15 (45.5%)	36 (40.0%)	11 (61.1%)	20 (62.5%)		
<b>MAYSI-2 referral</b>						0.170	173
No	150 (86.7%)	31 (93.9%)	77 (85.6%)	13 (72.2%)	29 (90.6%)		
Yes	23 (13.3%)	2 (6.06%)	13 (14.4%)	5 (27.8%)	3 (9.38%)		
<b>Is the youth gang affiliated?</b>						0.162	173
No	145 (83.8%)	29 (87.9%)	70 (77.8%)	16 (88.9%)	30 (93.8%)		
Yes	28 (16.2%)	4 (12.1%)	20 (22.2%)	2 (11.1%)	2 (6.25%)		
<b>Does the youth have a history of violence/assaulting family, friends, animals, etc.?</b>						0.628	173
No	114 (65.9%)	20 (60.6%)	58 (64.4%)	14 (77.8%)	22 (68.8%)		
Yes	59 (34.1%)	13 (39.4%)	32 (35.6%)	4 (22.2%)	10 (31.2%)		
<b>Has the youth ever runaway?</b>						0.457	173
No	143 (82.7%)	29 (87.9%)	73 (81.1%)	13 (72.2%)	28 (87.5%)		
Yes	30 (17.3%)	4 (12.1%)	17 (18.9%)	5 (27.8%)	4 (12.5%)		

## Appendix D: Data Dictionary

Table D1

### Data Dictionary for non-legal co-variates

Variable Name	Description	Where to find	Values	Notes & Instructions:
<b>Given in DB and Face sheet</b>				
PCMS	PCMS ID	Face sheet		
Ref_date	Referral Date	Face sheet		Look for the social study nearest to this referral date
DOB	Date of birth	Face sheet		
Gender	Gender	Face sheet		
Sealed	Is the file sealed in PCMS	Face sheet	<b>0- Not Sealed</b> (Able to see all information in PCMS) <b>1- Partially Sealed</b> (Cannot see information regarding certain referrals or certain dates) <b>2- Sealed</b> (Cannot see any information in PCMS, name will be "Sealed, Sealed")	It is possible for a case to be sealed for certain time period, but we are still able to access the information regarding the RRED referral.
<b>Referral summary</b>				
Past_HarveyWaiver	Is any prior offense's status Harvey Waiver	Referrals (Outside SS)	<b>0- No:</b> No previous referrals have Harvey Waiver (or Harvey Waivers are for future referrals) <b>1 - Yes:</b> Previous offenses have a Harvey Waiver	IMPORTANT: Look for this under "Status History" in the referral summary. Do not count any referrals with Harvey Waivers that are for the RRED referral (the referral date in your db) or Future referrals.
<b>Hearing section</b>				
DispositionHearing	Is there a disposition hearing for the sampled referral?	Hearings	<b>0 - No</b> <b>1 - Yes</b>	open all hearings and look for the dispositional hearing with the same(ish) date from the <b>Status History</b> -and look at the intake disposition. If it says 'petition filed' find disposition hearing
DispositionHearingJudge	Judge at Disposition Hearing	Dispositional Hearing Information Box or Minute Order Text	Last name, First initial (example: Sauer, K) string text	triple check the spelling please for recoding later- leave blank if no disposition hearing
<b>If there is a disposition hearing, then... grab the social study and continue here</b>				
SS	Is there a social study available	PCMS>Documents	<b>0 - No</b> <b>1 - Yes</b>	If there is no social study available, mark NO and move onto the next case!
SS_date	Date of social study	PCMS>Documents	Write in: mm/dd/yyyy	Please write in the date listed on the <b>left side bar within PCMS</b> . Do not record any of the dates listed on the front page of the social study for this variable.
<b>The following variables are for at the time of the instant offense only (e.g. before/day of)</b>				
Youth_ward	Is the youth a ward of the state at the time of the referral?	Referrals, Hearings (Outside SS)	<b>0 - No:</b> Youth is not a ward (WIC 602) at the time of the instant offense	Is the youth a ward of the state (WIC 602)? Determine based on previous true findings.

Variable Name	Description	Where to find	Values	Notes & Instructions:
			<b>1 - Yes:</b> Youth is a ward (WIC 602) at the time of the instant offense	<b>THIS IS AT THE TIME OF INSTANT OFFENSE</b>
Youth_underinfluence	Was youth under the influence (drugs or EtOH) at time of instant offense?	Read All	<b>0-No:</b> Not under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the instant offense <b>1-Yes:</b> Under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the instant offense <b>99-Unknown:</b> Information not recorded in the social study	Can be reported or verified with drug test. Either are acceptable.
Victim_inhome	Does the youth live with the victim of the instant offense (at time of referral)?	Read All	<b>0-No:</b> does not live with victim <b>1- Yes:</b> does live with victim <b>77- NA:</b> instant offense does not have a victim <b>99-Unknown:</b> Information not recorded in social study	
Coparticipant	Does youth have a co-participant for the RRED referral?	Cts	0	Co-defendant: any of two or more individuals answering the same charge in a court of law
<b>End instant offence variables</b>				
<b>The following variables are related to the MOST RECENT information in the social study</b>				
PG	Primary Guardian (Parent/Care Provider)	The Family	<b>1 - Mom and Dad (non-separated)</b> : Mom and dad are currently married and share decision-making power for a child equally <b>2 - Mom only:</b> Mother is divorced/separated/widowed from father and has the majority decision-making power <b>3 - Dad only:</b> Father is divorced/separated/widowed from mother and has the majority decision-making power <b>4- Ward of state/court:</b> neither parent has decision making power, rather the court has it (602) <b>88 - Other:</b> Write in any situations not listed above in the following "PP_Other" variable <b>99 - Unknown:</b> Information not recorded in social study	Primary parent is the most immediate guardian of the child living in the home, they hold the majority of decision-making power.
PG_Other	Other Primary Guardian	The Family	<b>if PP=88, write in other here (string)</b>	examples include: aunt, uncle, grandma, grandpa, mom+stepdad, dad+stepdad, dad+stepmom
Liv_Arrang1	Living Arrangement	The Family	<b>1 - Mother:</b> Mom lives in the household <b>2 - Father:</b> Dad lives in the household <b>3 - Step-parent:</b> Step-parent lives in the household <b>4 - Siblings:</b> Siblings live in the household, includes step or half. Only mark once, even if multiple siblings in household. <b>5 - Other family members:</b> Cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc. Includes half/step relations. <b>6 - Friends</b> <b>7 - Girlfriend/Boyfriend</b> <b>8 - Alone stable:</b> Living independently in their own home. Paying rent on their own or rent paid	Who they're living with. If not living with anyone determine: Alone stable, Alone transient, Foster Care, RTF, Custody, Group Home

Variable Name	Description	Where to find	Values	Notes & Instructions:
			<p>by someone who is not living in the household.</p> <p><b>9 - Alone transient:</b> Living on streets, car, RV, or shelter on their own.</p> <p><b>10 - Foster home</b></p> <p><b>11 - RTF:</b> Residential Treatment Facility.</p> <p><b>12 - Custody:</b> Youth is currently being housed in jail or prison.</p> <p><b>13 - Group home</b></p> <p><b>14 - Other non-related</b></p> <p><b>99 - Unknown:</b> Information not recorded in social study</p>	
Liv_Arrang2, Liv_Arrang3, Liv_Arrang4, Liv_Arrang5, Liv_Arrang6, Liv_Arrang7	Living Arrangement	The Family	<p><b>1 - Mother:</b> Mom lives in the household</p> <p><b>2 - Father:</b> Dad lives in the household</p> <p><b>3 - Step-parent:</b> Step-parent lives in the household</p> <p><b>4 - Siblings:</b> Siblings live in the household, includes step or half. Only mark once, even if multiple siblings in household.</p> <p><b>5 - Other family members:</b> Cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc. Includes half/step relations.</p> <p><b>6 - Friends</b></p> <p><b>7 - Girlfriend/Boyfriend</b></p> <p><b>99 - Unknown:</b> Information not recorded in social study</p>	Who they're living with, cannot match previous answers.
Num_Sib	Number of Siblings	The Family	<b>77 - Unknown:</b> Information not recorded in social study	Includes step/half. Count all ages and regardless of living in the home. If none write 0
Dec_parent	# of Deceased Parents	The Family	<p><b>numeric;</b></p> <p><b>0=none</b> (range 0-2)</p> <p><b>99=unknown</b></p>	
Dec_sibling	Does the youth have any deceased siblings?	The Family	<p><b>0-no:</b> all siblings still living</p> <p><b>1- yes:</b> mention of death of sibling (only)</p> <p><b>77-N/A</b> if no siblings</p>	
Par_EmpLive	Is there a parent/guardian who is currently employed and living in the home?	The Family	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No parent/guardian that lives in the household has a full or part time job</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Any parent/guardian living in the household (including step) that has full or part time employment</p> <p><b>77 - NA:</b> Youth not living at home, ward of the state, foster youth, etc.</p> <p><b>99 - Unknown:</b> Social study does not mention parental employment status</p>	Can be any adult living in the home.

Variable Name	Description	Where to find	Values	Notes & Instructions:
FinancSupp, FinancSupp_Other	Receiving public financial support?	The Family	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mention of any form of financial support in social study.</p> <p><b>1 - TANF/CalWORKS</b></p> <p><b>2 - SSI (Do not include social security income)</b></p> <p><b>3 - SSDI/Disability</b></p> <p><b>4 - SNAP/Foodstamps</b></p> <p><b>5 - WIC</b></p> <p><b>6 - UI/Unemployment</b></p> <p><b>88 - Other:</b> Write in other category of public financial support in the following variable "FinancSupp_Other"</p>	<p><b>TANF/CalWORKs</b> - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (<a href="https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1229">https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1229</a>)</p> <p><b>SSDI/Disability</b> - Social Security Disability Insurance (<a href="https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/social-security-disability-insurance/how-to-qualify">https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/social-security-disability-insurance/how-to-qualify</a>)</p> <p><b>SNAP/Foodstamps</b> - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (<a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/recipient/eligibility">https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/recipient/eligibility</a>)</p> <p><b>WIC</b> - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (<a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic">https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic</a>)</p> <p><b>UI/Unemployment</b> - Unemployment Insurance (<a href="https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/">https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/</a>)</p>
Par_SU	Parental history of substance use?	The Family, HHSA records	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mention of parental substance use Hx in social study</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Any parental substance use Hx (drugs or alcohol). Includes step-parents.</p> <p><b>77 - NA:</b> Foster youth, ward of the state, etc.</p>	<p>If youth is adopted only count YES if birth parent was using substances while youth was living with them. If parent has history of possession of drugs, but not specifically use of drugs, mark NO, but be sure to record possession in the notes section.</p>
Par_MH	Parental history of mental health	The Family, HHSA records	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mention of parental mental health Hx in social study</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Any parental mental health Hx (official diagnoses, MH treatments, self-diagnoses). Includes step-parents.</p> <p><b>77 - NA:</b> Foster youth, ward of the state, etc.</p>	<p>If youth is adopted only count YES if birth parent had mental health issues while youth was living with them</p>
Par_DV	History of domestic violence between parents	The Family, HHSA records	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mention of domestic violence <u>between parents (or parent and partner)</u> in social study</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Any domestic violence <u>between parents or partner</u></p> <p><b>77 - NA:</b> Foster youth, ward of the state, etc.</p>	<p>Only count domestic violence incidents occurring between parents or step-parents/parent's boyfriends/girlfriends. There is another indicator for youth-related DV later on.</p> <p>If youth is adopted only count YES if birth parents had DV issues while youth was living with them</p>
Par_Inc	History of parental incarceration	Law Enforcement History	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mention of parental incarceration in social study.</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Any parental Hx of incarceration.</p> <p><b>77 - NA:</b> Foster youth, ward of the state, etc.</p>	<p>Includes step-parents.</p> <p>Incarceration: Look for the general language "sentenced to XX amount of jail/prison time". DOES NOT INCLUDE arrests, convictions, or sentences without jail/prison time (i.e.: sentence to probation without jail time does not count)</p> <p>If youth is adopted only count YES if youth was living with birth parents for a significant amount of time before adopted</p>
Oth_Inc	History of other family incarceration	Law Enforcement History	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mention of other family incarceration in social study.</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Any other family Hx of incarceration.</p>	<p>Other family: adult siblings, cousins, uncles/aunts, grandparents.</p> <p>Incarceration: Look for the general language "sentenced to XX amount of jail/prison time". DOES NOT INCLUDE arrests, convictions, or sentences without jail/prison time</p>

Variable Name	Description	Where to find	Values	Notes & Instructions:
			<b>77 - NA:</b> Foster youth, ward of the state, etc.	(i.e.: sentence to probation without jail time does not count)
<b>Sib_Probation</b>	<b>Siblings with history of probation involvement</b>	<b>Law Enforcement History</b>	<b>0 - No:</b> No mention of siblings with probation involvement in social study. <b>1 - Yes:</b> Any siblings (including half/step) with probation involvement <b>77 - NA:</b> Foster youth, ward of the state, etc.	Includes siblings under 18 yo. Include half/step. Include siblings who have current or ever involvement in probation
<b>Sch_Type</b>	<b>Type of school youth attends</b>	<b>School Information</b>	<b>1 - Traditional:</b> Regular - Comprehensive, Public, Private, Charter School <b>2 - Continuation</b> <b>3 - Court School</b> <b>4 - Home School</b> <b>5 - Independent Study</b> <b>6 - Non-public (Day Treatment)</b> <b>88 - Other</b> <b>99 - Unknown</b>	Regular - Comprehensive, Public, Private, Charter School = <b>Traditional</b> This info is recorded in check box form under School Information. Recode at backend
<b>Sch_Attend</b>	<b>Poor school attendance</b>	<b>School Information</b>	<b>0 - No:</b> No mention of poor school attendance in social study <b>1 - Yes:</b> Any mention of poor school attendance by youth, teacher, counselor, parent, etc. <b>77 - NA:</b> Not in school	You will need to read for this, no check boxes. Commonly will see "truancy", absent, tardy (for reference 180 school days in a year - anything over 5 is reasonably absent), ok if not known if excused include anyway
<b>Sch_Performance</b>	<b>Poor school performance</b>	<b>School information/evaluation</b>	<b>0-not poor:</b> Either mentions of great performance and academic accolades, no information noted about "poor" performance <b>1-poor:</b> Youth has poor school performance either evidenced by self- report, school information, or the PO evaluation section <b>77-NA:</b> Not in school <b>99-Unknown:</b> No mentions of school anywhere	poor includes all F's on report card, noting abysmal, failing
<b>Sch_Sus</b>	<b>Suspension noted in social study</b>	<b>School Information</b>	<b>0 - No:</b> Check box is not marked for suspensions and there are no mentions of suspensions. <b>1 - Yes:</b> Check box is marked for suspensions, or any mentions of school suspensions. <b>77 - NA:</b> Not in school	This info is recorded in check box form under School Information. However, still need to read through, there may be mentions of other suspensions even if check box is unchecked. Any year. If status is "pending status" determine based off notes.
<b>Sch_Exp</b>	<b>Expulsion noted in social study</b>	<b>School Information</b>	<b>0 - No:</b> Check box is not marked for expulsions and there are no mentions of suspensions. <b>1 - Yes:</b> Check box is marked for expulsions, or any mentions of school expulsions. <b>77 - NA:</b> Not in school	This info is recorded in check box form under School Information. However, still need to read through, there may be mentions of other expulsions even if check box is unchecked. Any year.

Variable Name	Description	Where to find	Values	Notes & Instructions:
Sch_IEP	IEP	School Information	<p><b>0 - No:</b> Check box is not marked for IEP and no mentions of an IEP</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Check box marked for IEP or mentions of a completed IEP</p> <p><b>77 - NA:</b> Not in school</p> <p><b>99 - Unknown:</b> No mentions of school anywhere</p>	This info is recorded in check box form under School Information. However, still need to read through, there may be mentions of IEPs even if check box is unchecked. Only mark YES if an IEP has been completed, if still in the preparation stages, or only recommended for an IEP mark NO. Pre-IEP counts as other school services received (next variable).
Sch_Serv	Other school services received	School Information	<p><b>0 - No:</b> Check boxes not marked for any specialized school services and no mentions of specialized school services.</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Any check boxes marked or any mentions of specialized school services.</p> <p><b>77 - NA:</b> Not in school</p>	This info is recorded in check box form under School Information beneath the IEP indicator. However, still need to read through, there may be mentions of other specialized school services even if check box is unchecked. DO NOT INCLUDE IEP'S IN THIS VARIABLE.
SU_Alc, SU_MJ, SU_Mth, SU_PCP, SU_Coc, SU_Her, SU_Oth	Prior use of SUBSTANCE ever	Substance Abuse History Chart	<p><b>0 - No:</b> Chart is marked "denies"</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Chart contains information regarding youth ever using substance</p>	This info is recorded in a chart under Substance Abuse History. We are determining if youth has EVER tried one of these substances, does not matter if youth has not used in a long time. Write in type of drug in SU_OTH_desc if youth tried any drugs not listed. If youth is found with drugs in their possession but denies any use of drugs, mark NO, but be sure to record possession in the notes section.
SU_earliestage	Earliest age recorded SU	Substance Abuse History Chart	Age (grade) of first use	If multiple listed choose the earliest.
SU_Tx	Has youth received substance abuse treatment	Substance Abuse History, Physical Health/Mental Health, Counseling History	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mentions of substance use Tx</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Mentions substance use Tx</p>	Read through sections mentioned. Substance use treatment includes medical withdrawal (detox), in-patient, out-patient, drug/alcohol counseling.
Gang	Is the youth gang affiliated	Gangs/Non-Inclusive Group Affiliation	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mention of gang or non-inclusive group membership</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Any mentions of gang or non-inclusive group membership</p>	There is a check box under Gangs/Tagger Affiliation section. However, please read notes to determine if youth had any history of gang or non-inclusive group involvement. Non-inclusive groups = skinheads, white supremacists, etc. Association includes regularly hangs out with multiple gang members.
Preg	Teen pregnancy, includes having a partner who is pregnant under the age of 18	The Family, Physical Health/Mental Health	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mentions of pregnancy</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Any mentions of pregnancy</p>	Teen pregnancy includes having a partner who is pregnant under the age of 18
MH_diag	Formal mental health diagnosis by mental health or medical professional	Physical Health/Mental Health, Psychological Evaluation, Counseling History	<p><b>0 - No:</b> No mention of official mental health diagnosis</p> <p><b>1 - Yes:</b> Mental health diagnosis by professional listed</p>	Professional = Physician, Psychiatrist, Therapist, Counselor. Do not count any non-professional diagnoses here (i.e.: teachers, parents, self-diagnosis). If the social study recommends a psych assessment, look for it in the Documents section of PCMS to find diagnosis.

Variable Name	Description	Where to find	Values	Notes & Instructions:
MH_drug	Is the youth taking psychotropic drugs	Physical Health/Mental Health, Psychological Evaluation, Counseling History	0 - No: No mention of youth taking psychotropic drugs 1 - Yes: Youth is taking psychotropic drugs for mental health	Count YES if youth is prescribed drugs for mental health (i.e.: not for pain or other medical issue). Also count YES if youth has been prescribed psychotropic drugs but is not currently taking them.
MH_hosp	Prior hospitalization for behavioral health issue	Physical Health/Mental Health, Psychological Evaluation, Counseling History	0 - No: No mention of hospitalization for behavioral health issue 1 - Yes: One or more mentions of hospitalization for behavioral health issue	Includes hospitalization due to suicide attempt/psychosis/drugs/anger/behavior/self-harm (intent or not)
MH_Assessment	Has the youth had a psychological assessment or was referred for one due to this offense	Physical Health/Mental Health, Psychological Evaluation, Counseling History	0 - No: No mention of psychological assessment recommendation or referral due to this instant offense/series of offenses 1 - Yes: One or more psychological assessments recommended, referred, or completed for this offense	
HHS_Neg	Health and Human Services contact regarding neglect	HHSA records	if none=0	Sum of all <b>substantiated</b> cases including youth as victim (DO NOT COUNT cases not including youth's name. DO NOT COUNT inconclusive, unfounded, evaluated out, etc.)
HHS_Phys	Health and Human Services contact regarding physical abuse	HHSA records	if none=0	Sum of all <b>substantiated</b> cases including youth as victim (DO NOT COUNT cases not including youth's name. DO NOT COUNT inconclusive, unfounded, evaluated out, etc.)
HHS_Emo	Health and Human Services contact regarding emotional abuse	HHSA records	if none=0	Sum of all <b>substantiated</b> cases including youth as victim (DO NOT COUNT cases not including youth's name. DO NOT COUNT inconclusive, unfounded, evaluated out, etc.)
HHS_Sex	Health and Human Services contact regarding sexual abuse	HHSA records	if none=0	Sum of all <b>substantiated</b> cases including youth as victim (DO NOT COUNT cases not including youth's name. DO NOT COUNT inconclusive, unfounded, evaluated out, etc.)
HHS_Rsk	Health and Human Services contact regarding substantial risk	HHSA records	if none=0	Sum of all <b>substantiated</b> cases including youth as victim (DO NOT COUNT cases not including youth's name. DO NOT COUNT inconclusive, unfounded, evaluated out, etc.)
HHS_count	number of dispositions in HHSA report	HHSA records	numeric	Count all HHS DISPOSITIONS (right hand column, include pending) including youth as victim regardless of outcome.
Phy_abuse	Outside of HHSA cases, did youth, PO, or guardians report physical abuse?	Read All	0 - No: No mentions of physical abuse outside HHSA 1 - Yes: Mentions (regardless by whom) of physical abuse with youth as victim outside HHSA	Yes/No to see if abuse was reported or noted, but not reported to formal report to HHSA -- can include "youth reported dad hit him multiple times a week" If there are conflicting reports from

Variable Name	Description	Where to find	Values	Notes & Instructions:
				the youth and an adult, record the information provided by the youth.
Sex_abuse	Outside of HHSA cases, did youth, PO, or guardians report sexual abuse?	Read All	<b>0 - No:</b> No mentions of sexual abuse outside HHSA <b>1 - Yes:</b> Mentions (regardless by whom) of sexual abuse with youth as victim outside HHSA	Yes/No to see if abuse was reported or noted, but not reported to formal report to HHSA -- can include mentions of sexual abuse if there are conflicting reports from the youth and an adult, record the information provided by the youth.
Emo_abuse	Outside of HHSA cases, did youth, PO or guardians report emotional abuse?	Read All	<b>0 - No:</b> No mentions of emotional abuse outside HHSA <b>1 - Yes:</b> Mentions (regardless by whom) of emotional abuse with youth as victim outside HHSA	Yes/No to see if abuse was reported or noted, but not reported to formal report to HHSA -- can include mentions of emotional abuse. If there are conflicting reports from the youth and an adult, record the information provided by the youth.
Other_abuse	Outside of HHSA cases, did youth, PO, or guardians report other kinds of abuse?	Read All	<b>0 - No:</b> No mentions of other abuse outside HHSA <b>1 - Yes:</b> Mentions (regardless by whom) of other abuse with youth as victim outside HHSA	Yes/No to see if abuse was reported or noted, but not reported to formal report to HHSA -- can include mentions of "other" abuse. If there are conflicting reports from the youth and an adult, record the information provided by the youth.
Hx_assault_behavior	Does the youth have a history of violence/assaulting family, friends, animals, etc	Read All	<b>0-No:</b> No mentions of youth assaulting others <b>1- Yes:</b> outside the instant offense, history or mentions of youth assaulting others <b>99-Uknown</b>	assault: physical attack on another human (other than specifically self-defense)
MAYSI-2	MAYSI-2 referral	MIOCR-2 Information	<b>0 - No:</b> Youth was not referred for clinical assessment based on MAYSI-2 <b>1 - Yes:</b> Youth was referred for clinical assessment based on MAYSI-2 <b>99 - Unknown</b>	Look for the language "the youth did/ did not meet the threshold." or "the youth was referred/ not referred"
LGBTQ	Youth self identifies as LGBTQ+	Read All	<b>1 - Yes:</b> Youth <u>self-identifies</u> as LGBTQ+ <b>99 - Unknown:</b> If no mentions of self-identification in social study.	Please record any sexual orientation or gender info outside of these specifications in the Notes section
Homeless	Has youth experienced a period of homelessness	The Family, HHSA records, Evaluation	<b>0 - No:</b> No mentions of a period of homelessness <b>1 - Yes:</b> One or more mentions of a period of homelessness	Only count YES if the word "homeless" or "nondomiciled" is mentioned. DO NOT COUNT: sleeping on friend's couch, no fixed residence, living in car, etc.
Runaway	Has the youth ever runaway	The Family, Evaluation, Read All	<b>0 - No:</b> No mention of youth running away in social study <b>1 - Yes:</b> Social study mentions youth running away from their main living arrangement.	Need to read through social study. Look for specific term "runaway"
Foster	Was/is the youth in the foster care system?	Read All	<b>0 - No: Youth was never in the foster care system</b> <b>1 - Yes: Youth was or is still in the foster care system</b>	

Variable Name	Description	Where to find	Values	Notes & Instructions:
<b>Diversion</b>	<b>Did the youth get a diversion for the RRED referral?</b>		<b>0 - No: There is no mention of a diversion for the RRED referral</b> <b>1 - Yes: The youth was assigned a diversion for the RRED referral</b>	Diversions include CIO diversion and Police diversions
<b>Diversion_Fail</b>	<b>Did the youth fail their diversion?</b>		<b>0 - No: The youth passed diversion</b> <b>1 - Yes: The youth was not successful in completing their diversion</b> <b>77 - N/A: The youth did not have a diversion</b>	
<b>RTF_rec</b>	<b>Probation officer recommends RFT.</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>0 - No: no mention nor recommended</b> <b>1 - Yes: RTF recommended</b>	RTF = residential treatment facility. Ex: star view adolescent center (a mental health treatment center) is an RTF. Reflections IS NOT an RTF.
<b>Wardship_rec</b>	<b>PO recommends 602 wardship</b>	<b>Evaluation - Last paragraph</b>	<b>0 - No:</b> PO does not recommend WIC 602 <b>1 - Yes:</b> PO recommends WIC 602	Look for language similar to: "It is recommended that the minor be adjudged a WIC 602 ward."  DO NOT COUNT: recommendations for institutional commitments or reflections
<b>Institution_rec</b>	<b>Did the PO recommend the youth for an institutional commitment?</b>	<b>Evaluation - Last paragraph</b>	<b>0 - No:</b> PO does not recommend institutional commitment <b>1 - Yes:</b> PO recommends an institutional commitment	Look for language similar to: "The Probation Department is recommending youth be committed to XXX for XX days." Programs involving institutional commitments: STOP, Breaking Cycles, Reflections, Juvenile Hall, JRF (Juvenile Ranch Facility)/GRF (Girls Rehabilitation Facility)  DO NOT COUNT: recommendation for Home Supervision, Probation, Reflections, non-institutional programs (i.e.: therapy or rehab)
<b>Facility_rec_string</b>	<b>Probation officer recommends commitment-write specific facility</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Fill in (string)</b>	

## Appendix E: Estimated v. Observed Effect Size and Power

Table E1

Effect sizes and power informing sample selection and the observed sample

	Estimated effect size	Estimated power	Estimated sample size	Actual sample size (N)	Observed effect size	Observed power
Detention to Probation	0.116	0.9	1049	966	0.144	0.976
Petition with a True Finding	0.159	0.7	347	376	0.129	0.53
Commitment	0.499	0.9	57	283	0.188	0.762

Source: SANDAG