



# Juvenile Justice Trends You Should Know About – And How to Stay Current

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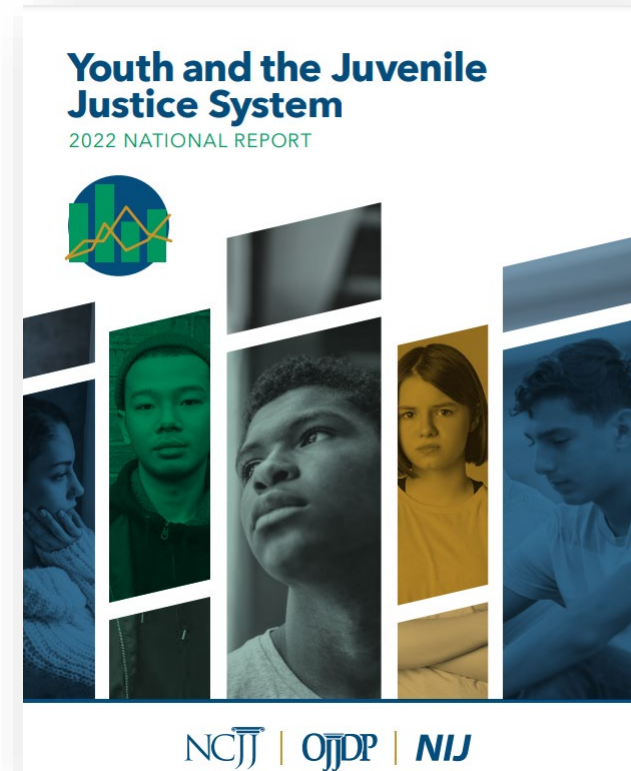
# National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program

- Supported by cooperative agreement #2019-JX-FX-K001 awarded by NIJ with funding support from OJJDP.
- The project draws on various national data sets to develop publications and online resources to make juvenile justice data easily accessible to the field and the general public.
- Provides important data/information on youth and the juvenile justice system (e.g., well-being and risk behaviors, victimization of and offending by youth, and the juvenile justice system's response to law-violating behavior).

*Disclaimer: Points of view do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of OJJDP, NIJ, or the U.S. Dept of Justice.*

# Our latest National Report: *A cornucopia of data on youth and the juvenile justice system*

- The report covers a lot of ground about youth and their involvement with the juvenile justice system: poverty, depression, victimization experiences, self-report behaviors, arrests, juvenile court processing, and youth in corrections

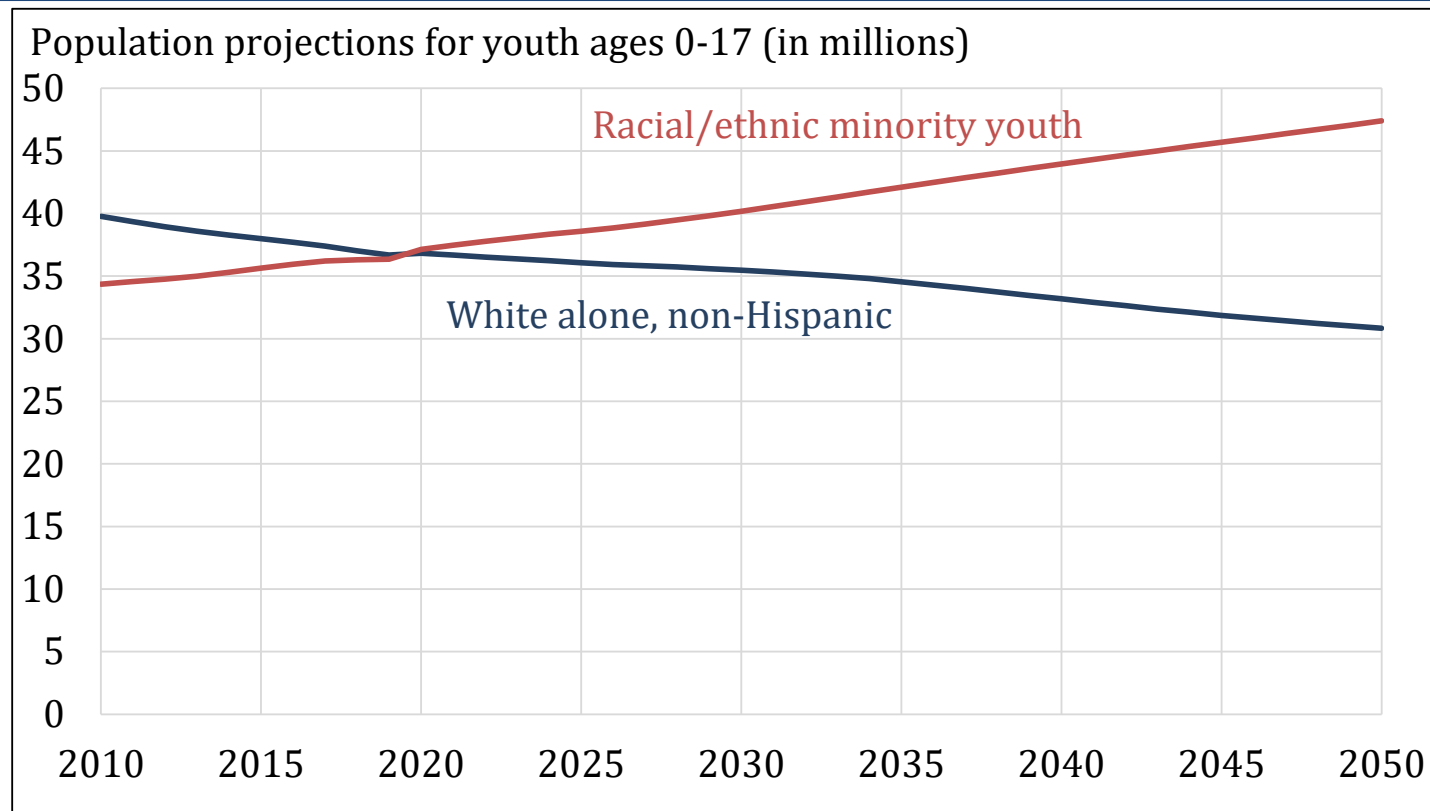




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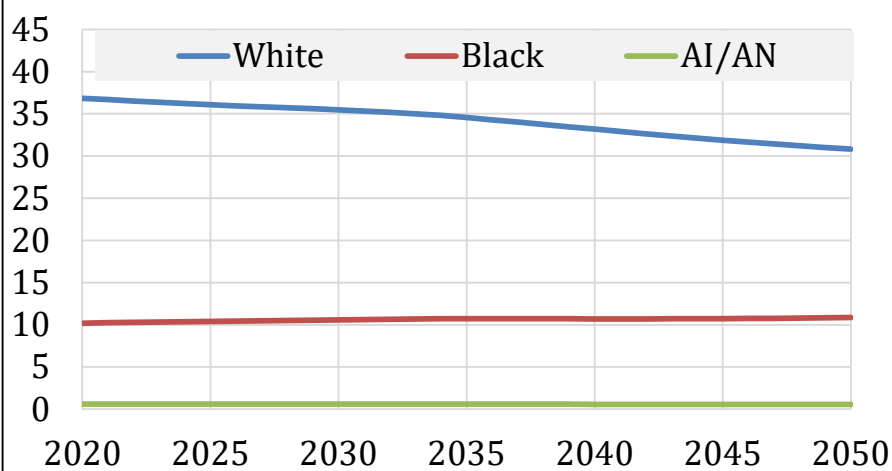
The face of our youth population  
has changed – and it will continue

# The racial/ethnic minority population will increase nearly 30% between 2020 and 2050

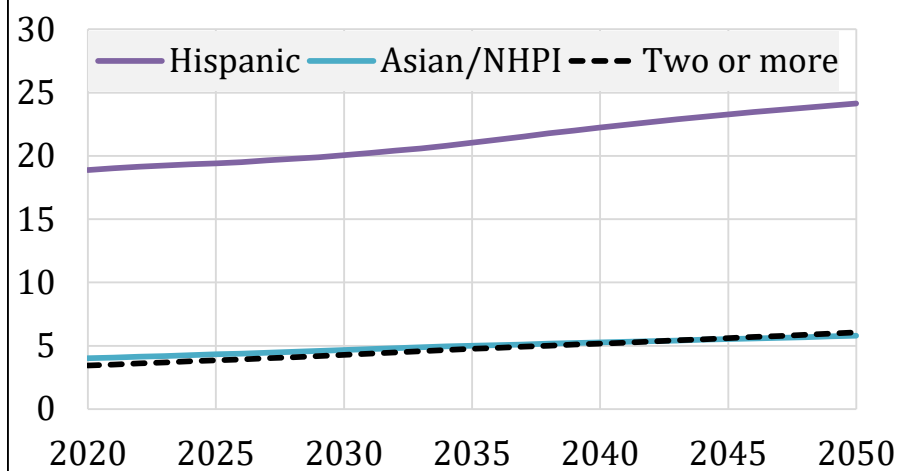


# But the projected increase will vary by race/ethnicity

Population projections for youth ages 0-17 (in millions)



Population projections for youth ages 0-17 (in millions)



Note: Race groups are “alone” and exclude youth of Hispanic ethnicity

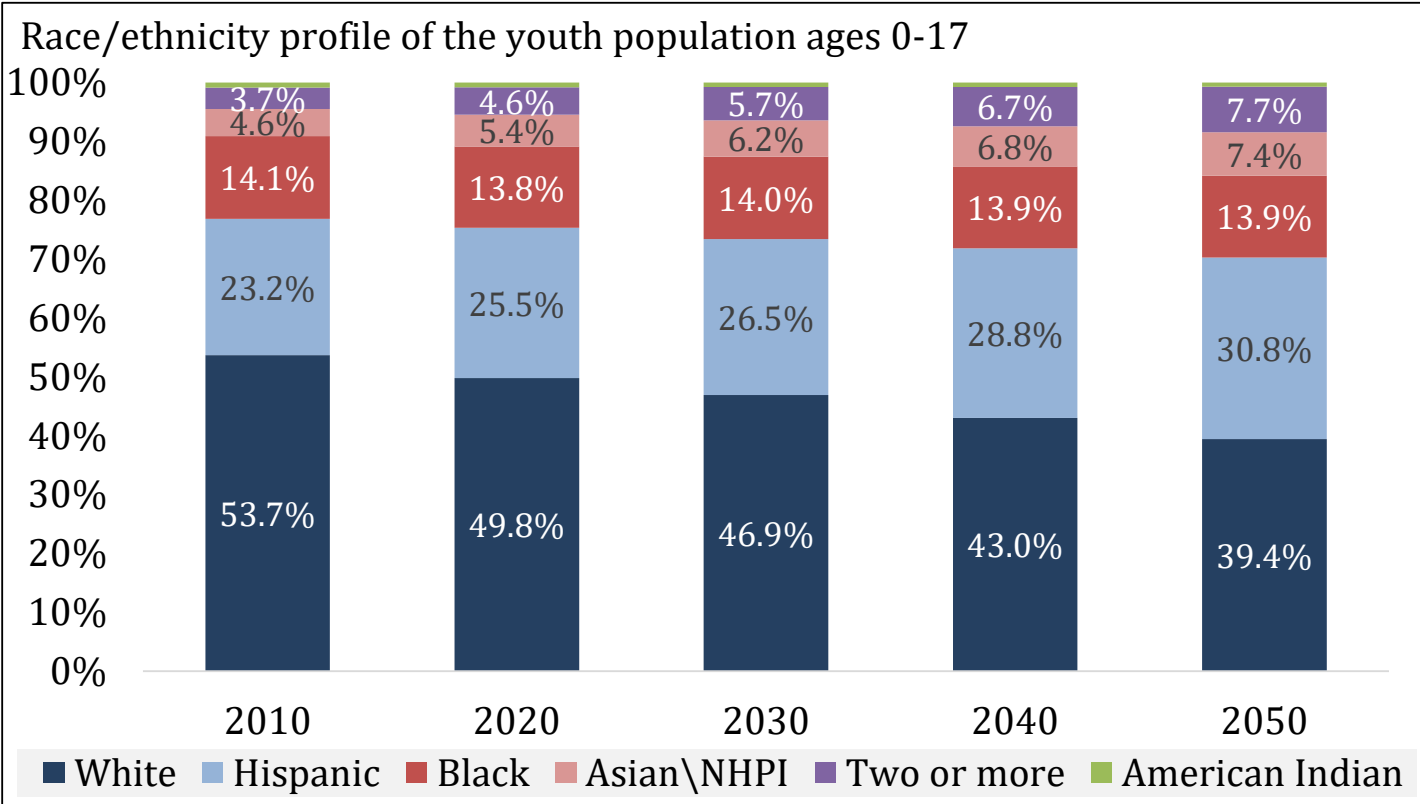
# But the projected increase will vary by race/ethnicity

Percent change in the youth population ages 0-17 2020-2050

Race/ethnicity	% change	Race/ethnicity	% change
Total	6%		
White	<b>-16%</b>	Hispanic	<b>28%</b>
Black	<b>7%</b>	Asian/NHPI	<b>44%</b>
American Indian / Alaskan Native	<b>-10%</b>	Two or more	<b>77%</b>

Note: Race groups are “alone” and exclude youth of Hispanic ethnicity

# By 2050, Hispanic youth will account for nearly one-third of the youth population







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# A growing proportion of youth experience episodes of depression

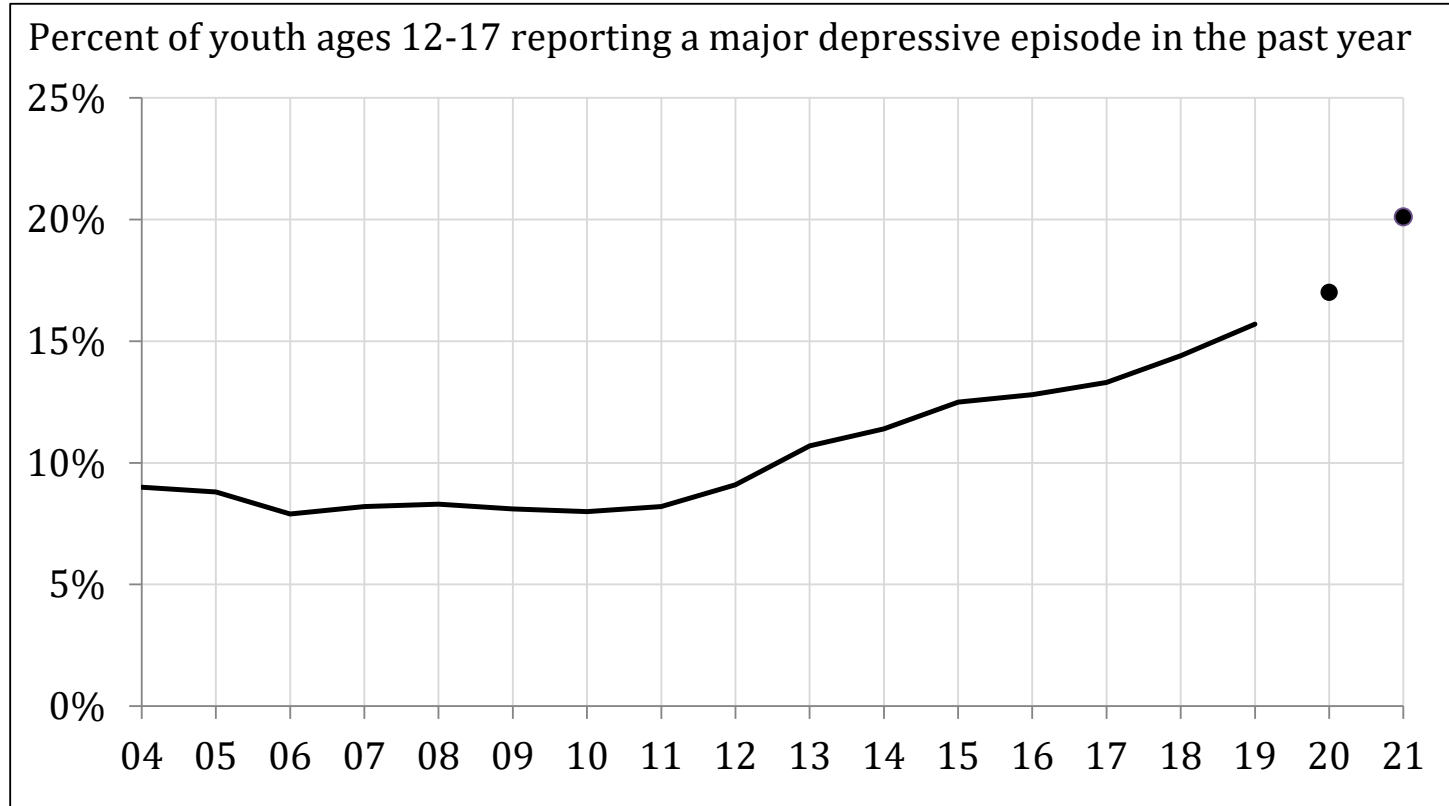


# How the National Survey on Drug Use and Health defines “major depressive episode” (MDE)

**Major depressive episode (MDE):** a period of **at least 2 weeks** during which a person experiences - for most of the day nearly every day - a **depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure in daily activities**, plus at least **4 additional symptoms of depression** (e.g., problems with sleeping, eating, energy, concentration, feelings of self-worth, recurring thoughts of death, or recurring thoughts of suicidal ideation).

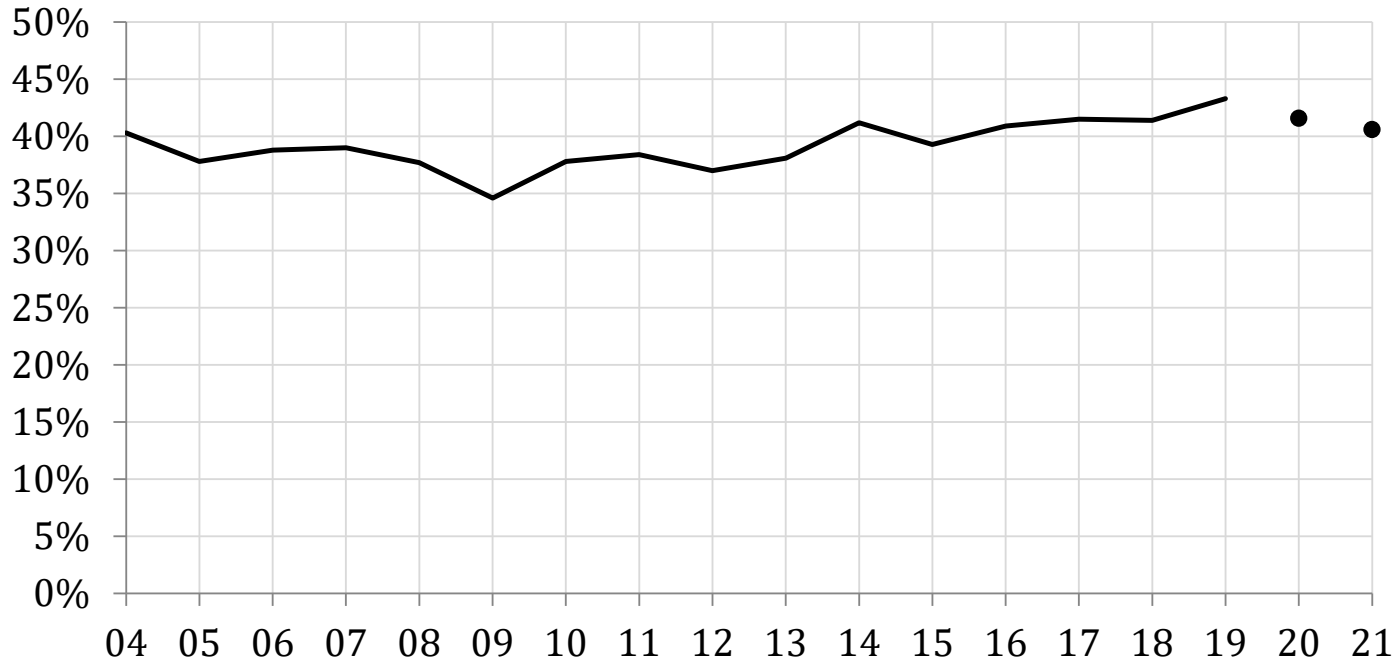
Adapted from: *Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*

# In 2021, 1 in 5 youth ages 12-17 experienced an MDE at least once in the prior 12 months



# About 4 in 10 youth that experienced an MDE received treatment for depression

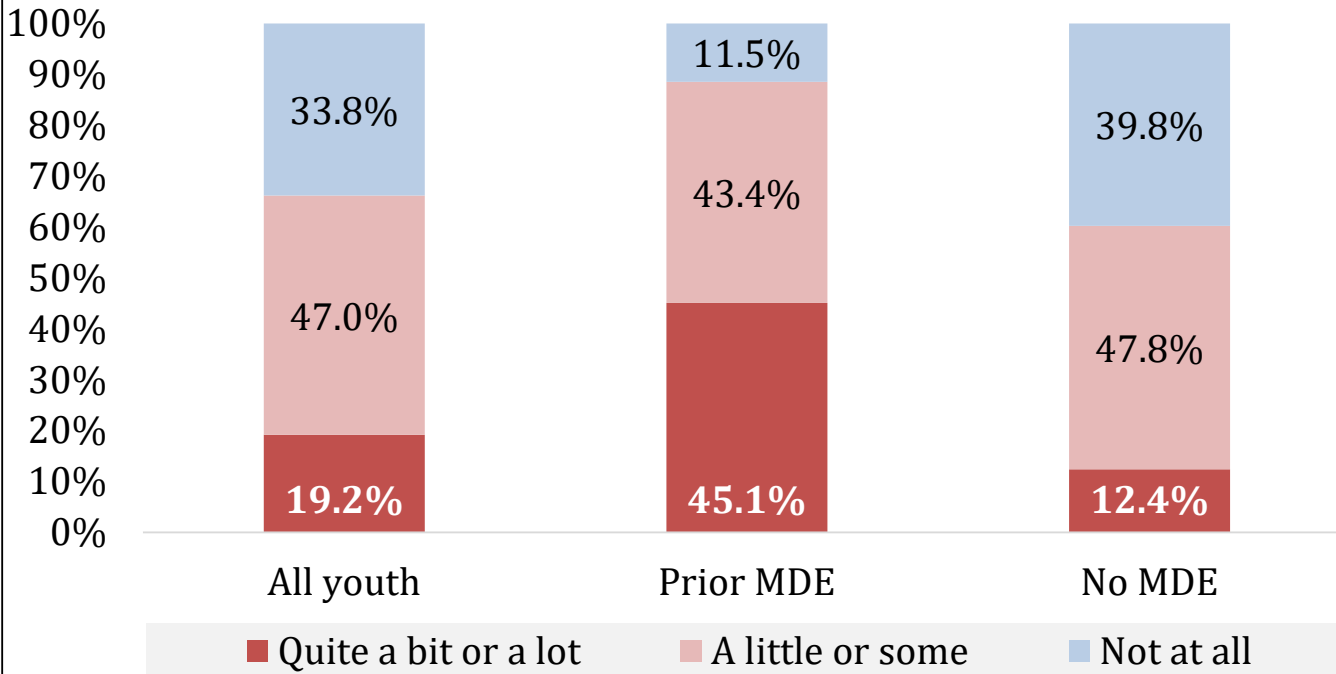
Percent of youth ages 12-17 reporting an MDE in the past year that **received treatment for depression**





# The perceived negative effect of the pandemic was greater for youth that experienced an MDE in the past year

**Perceived** negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the emotional or mental health of youth ages 12 to 17, 2021

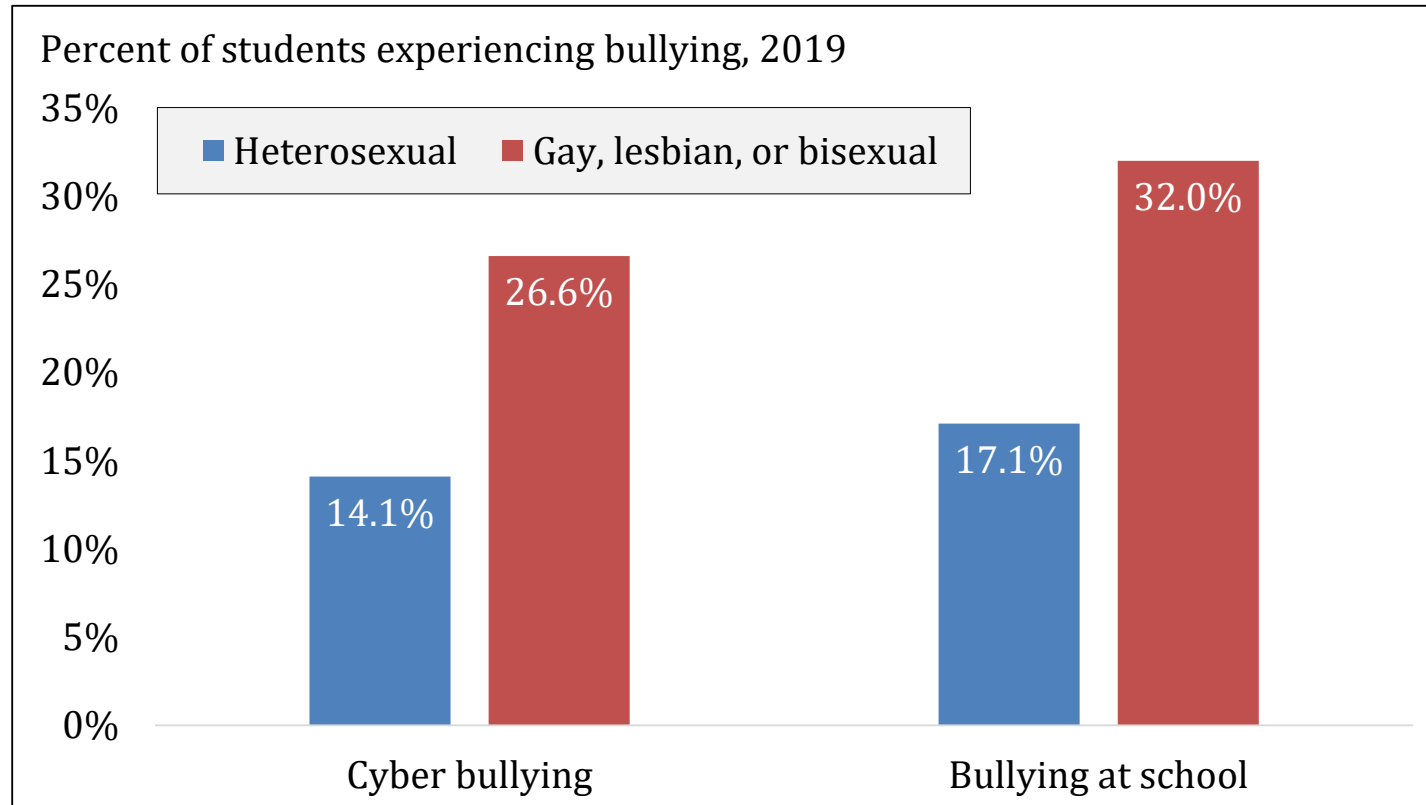




The high school experiences of youth who identify as LGBTQ differ from their heterosexual peers

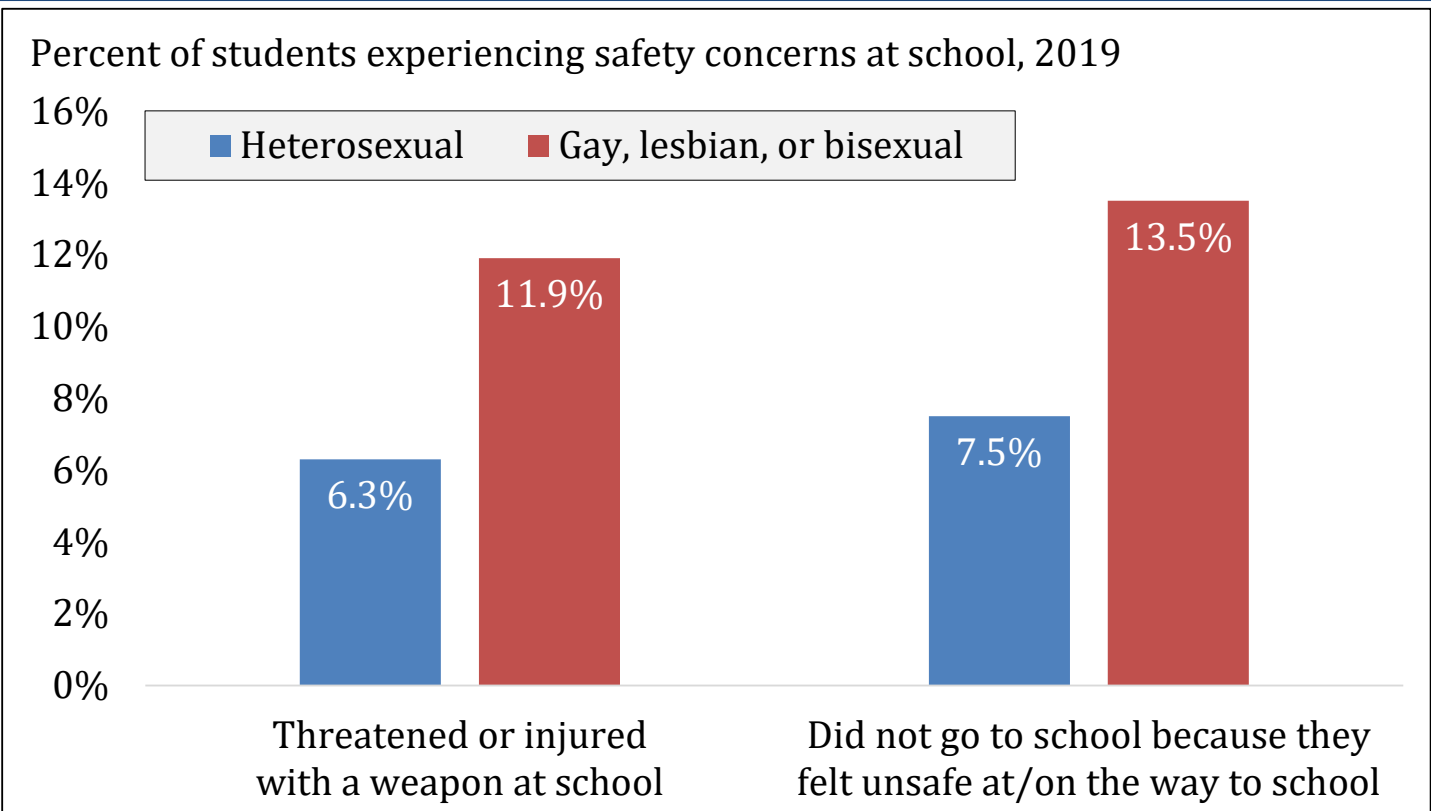


# LGBTQ students are significantly more likely than their heterosexual peers to report bullying...



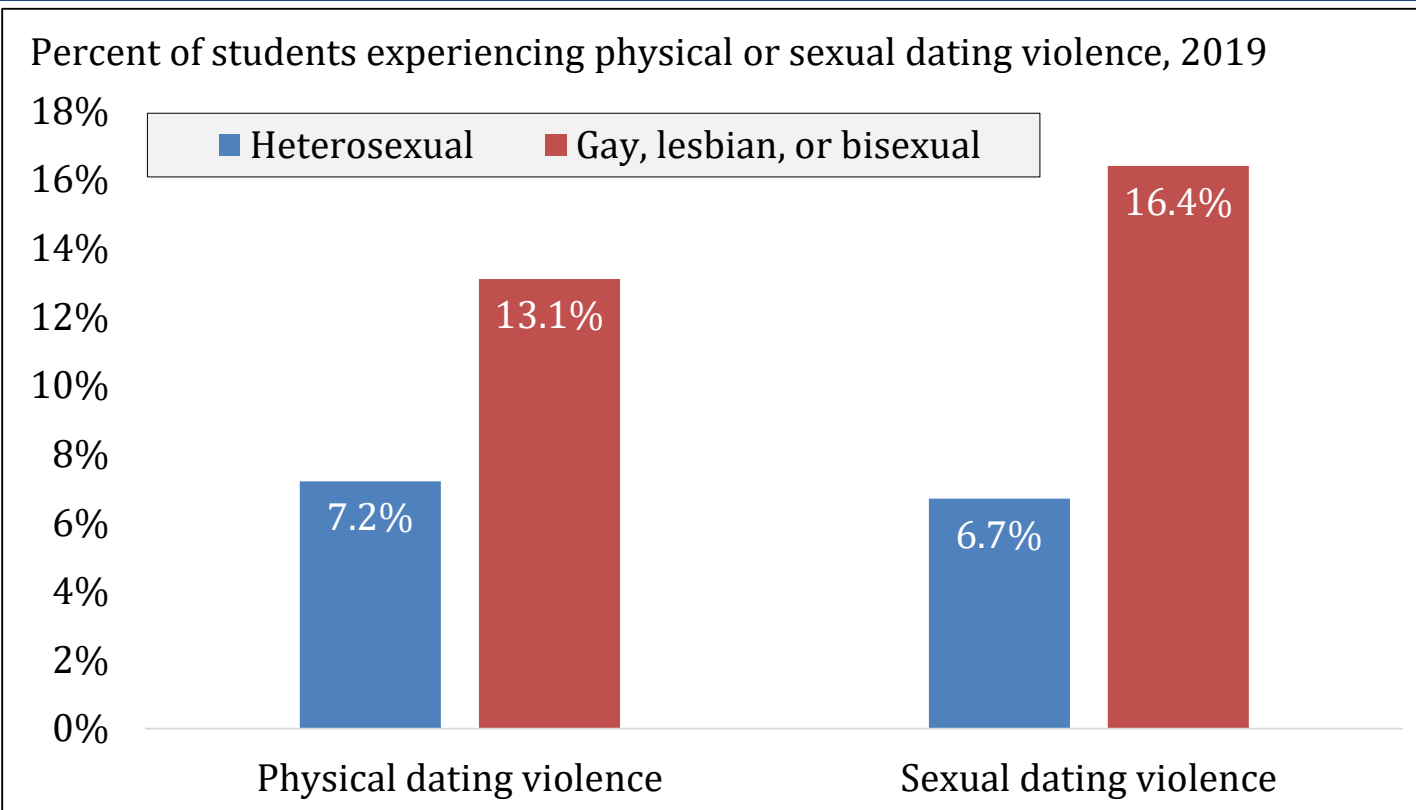


# ... to report safety concerns at school



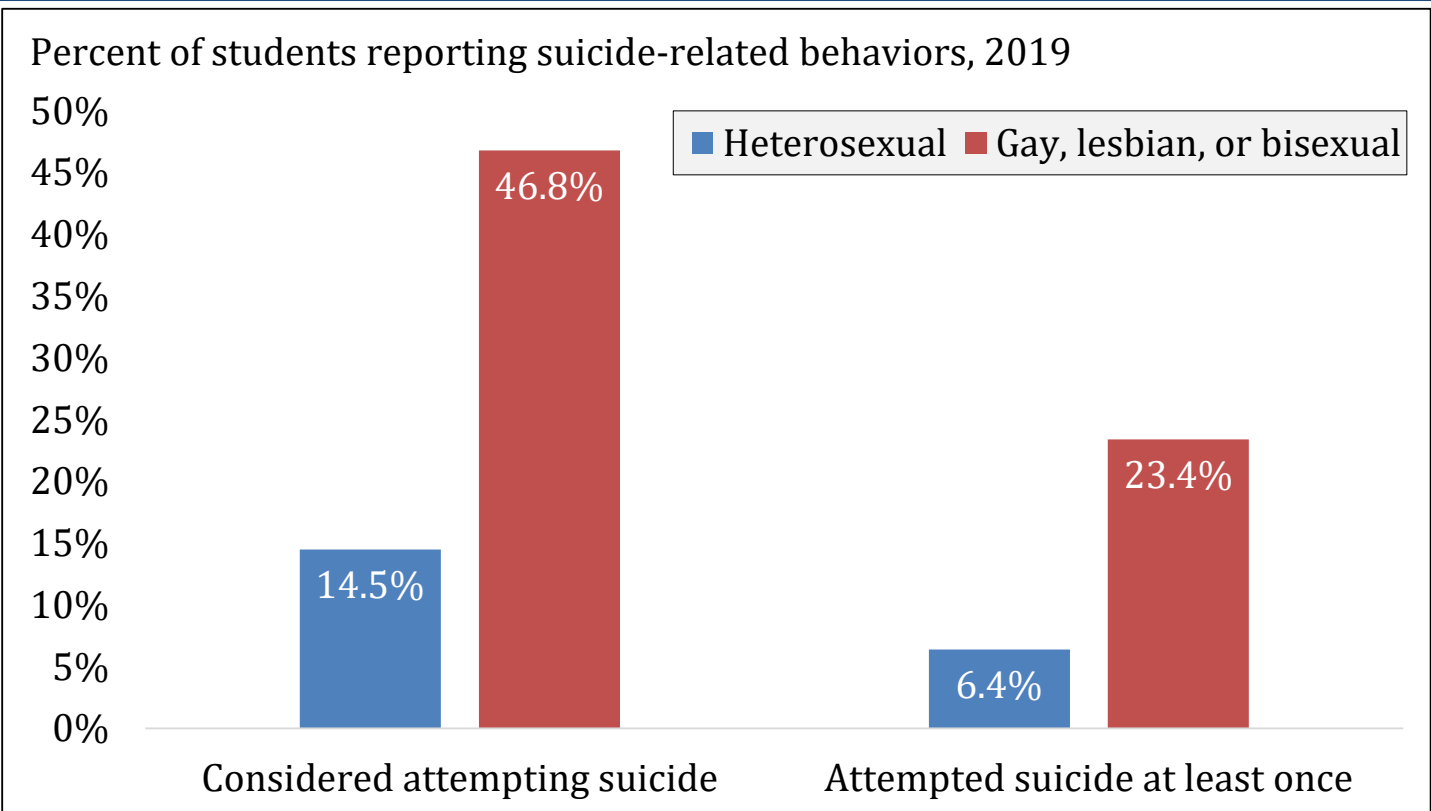


# ... to report physical or sexual dating violence





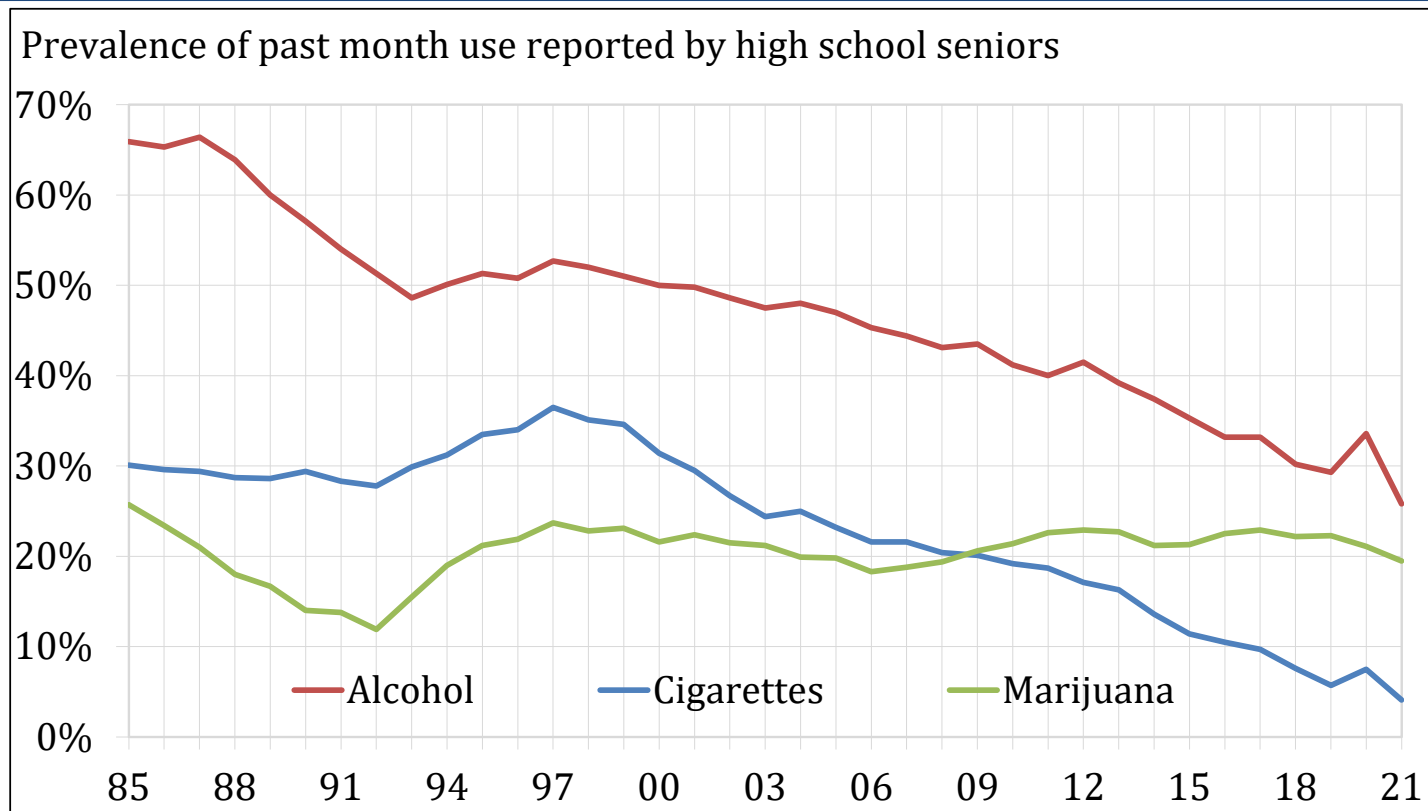
# ... and to report suicide-related behaviors





# Substance use reported by youth has changed

# Alcohol and cigarette use among high school seniors reached historic lows

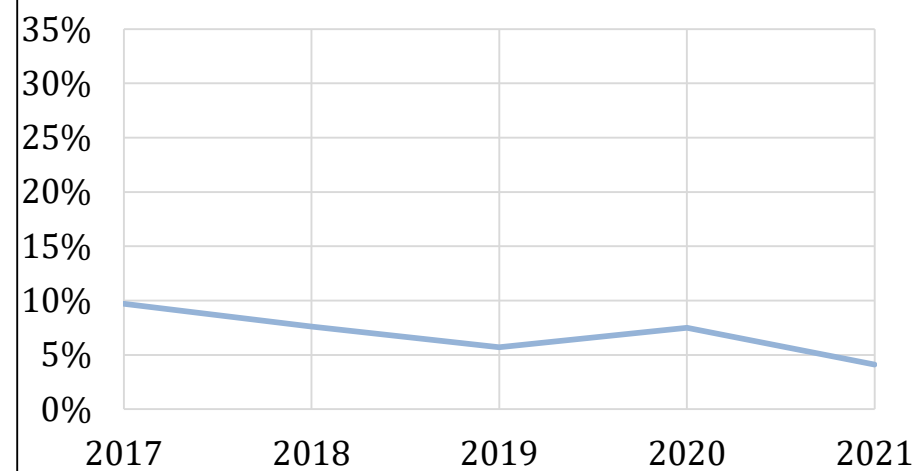




# Recent trends show that both cigarette and marijuana use has declined somewhat

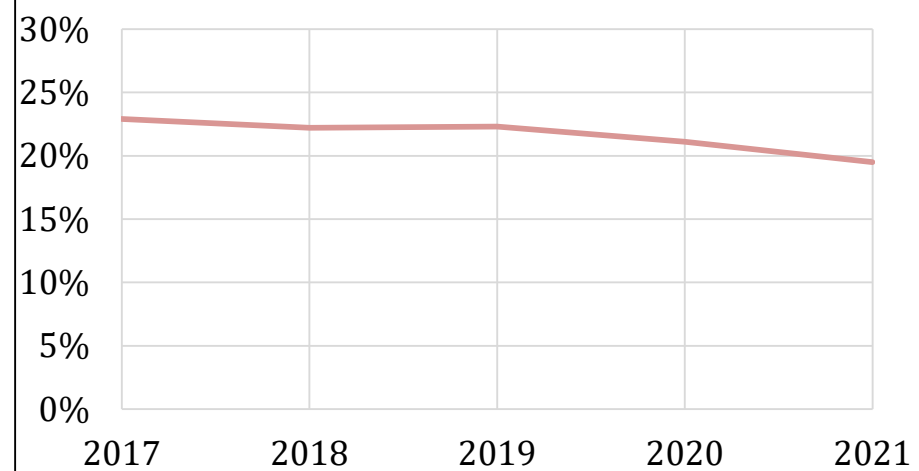
## Cigarette use

Percent of seniors reporting use in the past month



## Marijuana use

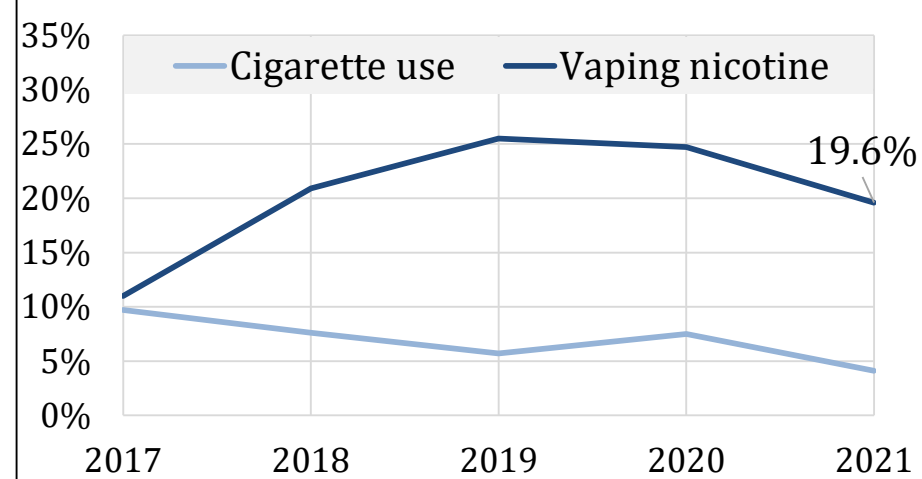
Percent of seniors reporting use in the past month



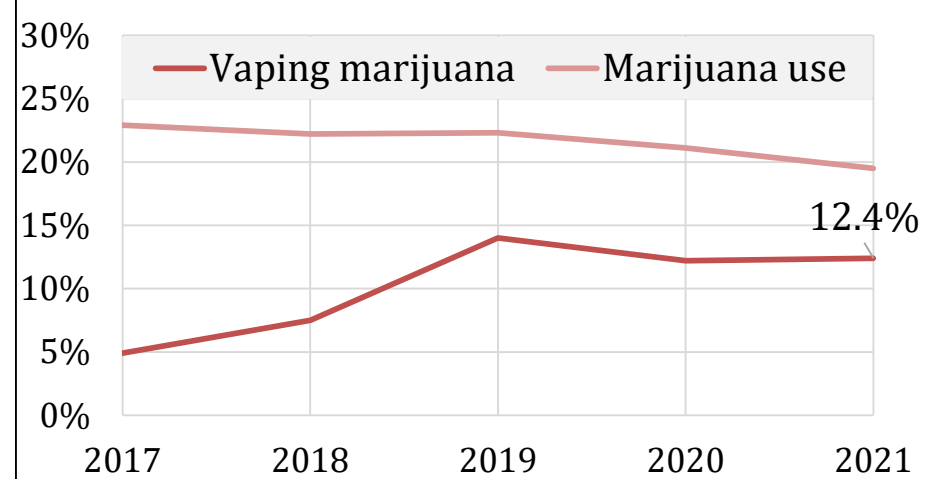


# But there has been a rise in vaping of nicotine and marijuana

Percent of seniors reporting use in the past month



Percent of seniors reporting use in the past month

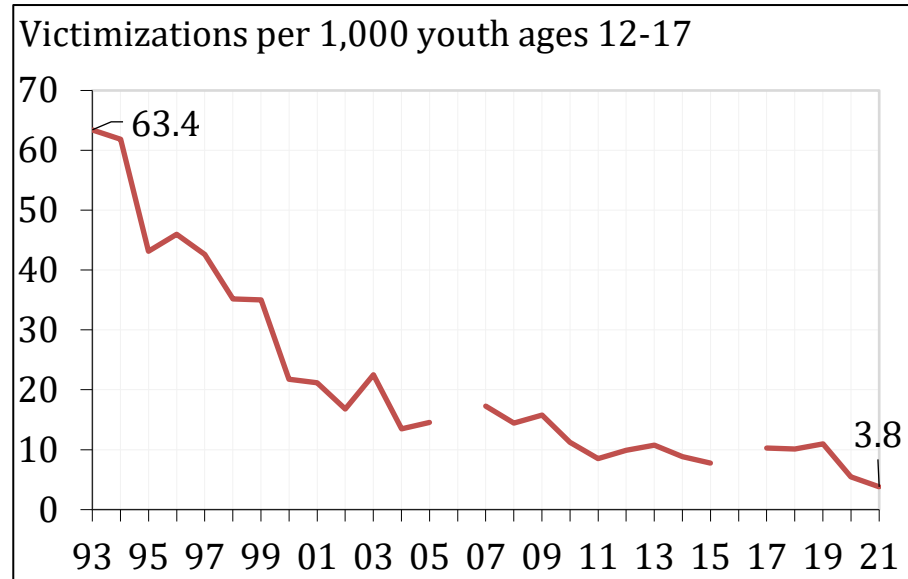




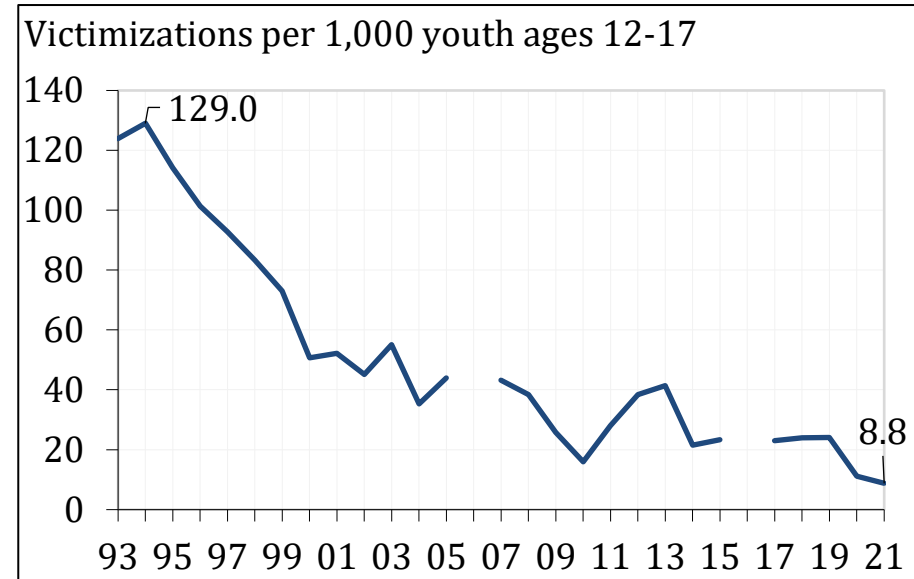
Violence against youth  
remains relatively low

# Nonfatal violent victimizations reported by youth have been on the decline

## Serious violence\*



## Simple assault

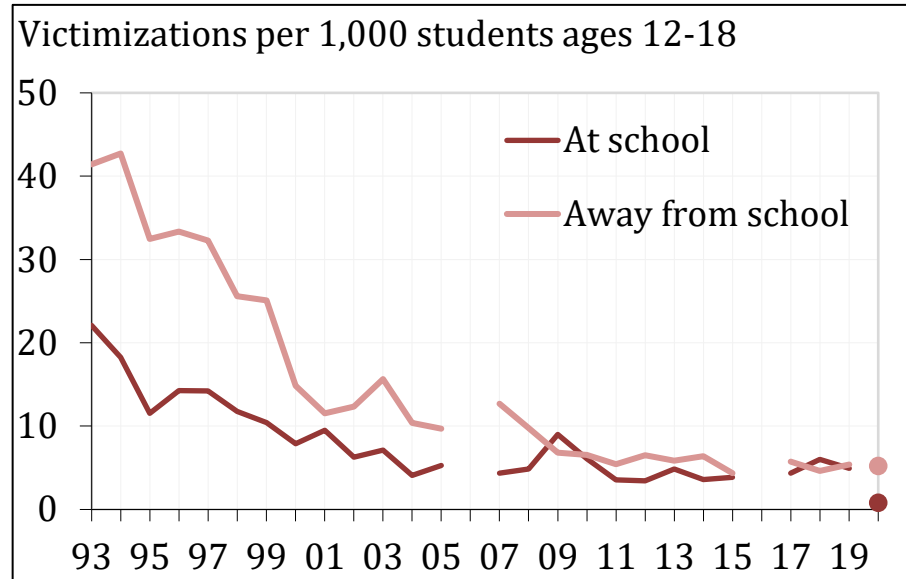


\*Robbery, violent sexual assault, & aggravated assault

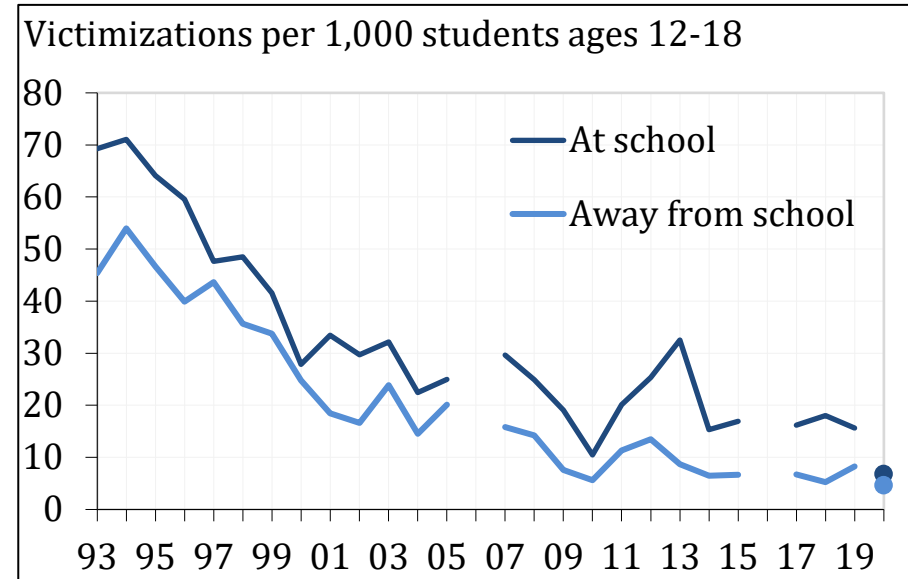


# Likewise for nonfatal violence experienced by students at and on the way to school

## Serious violence\*

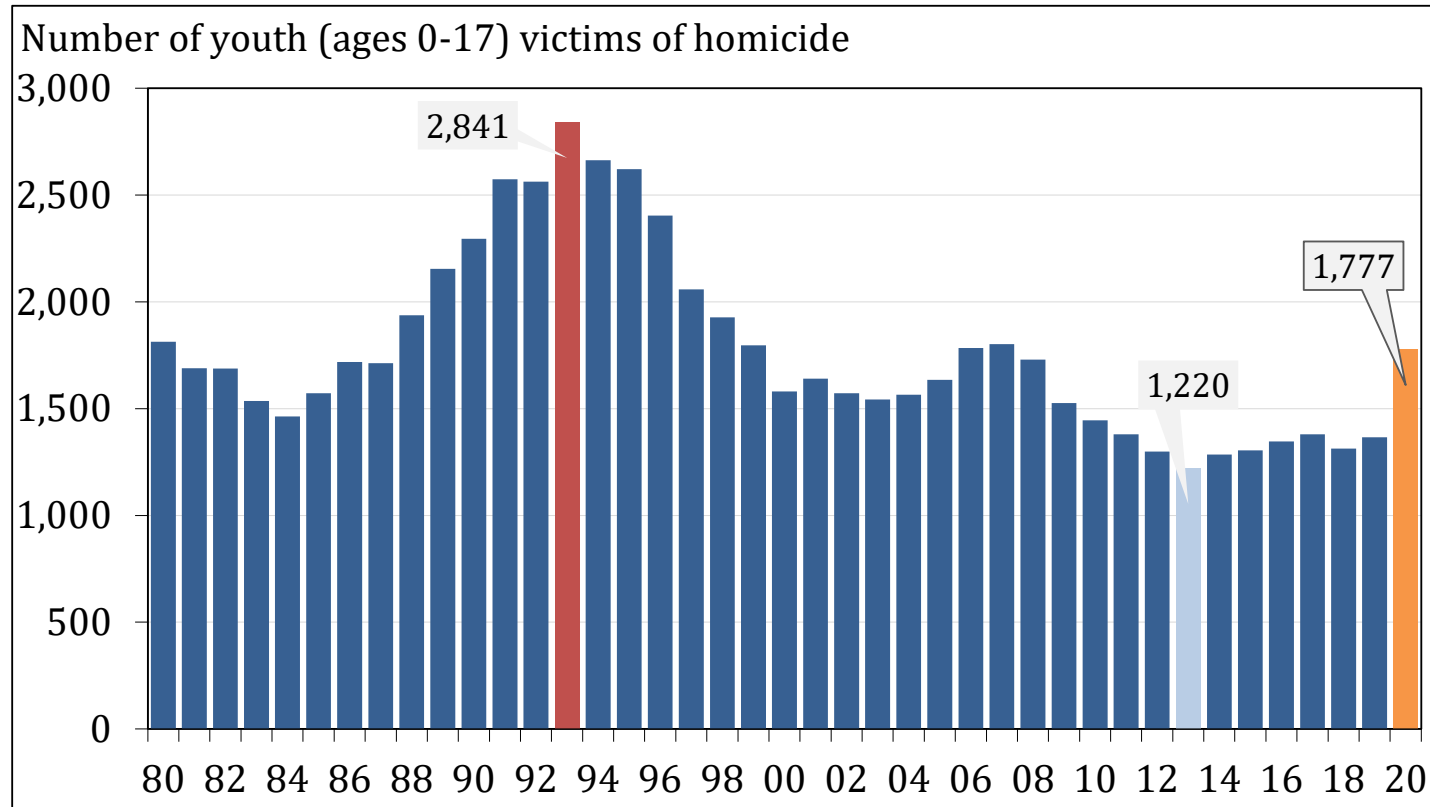


## Simple assault



\*Robbery, violent sexual assault, & aggravated assault

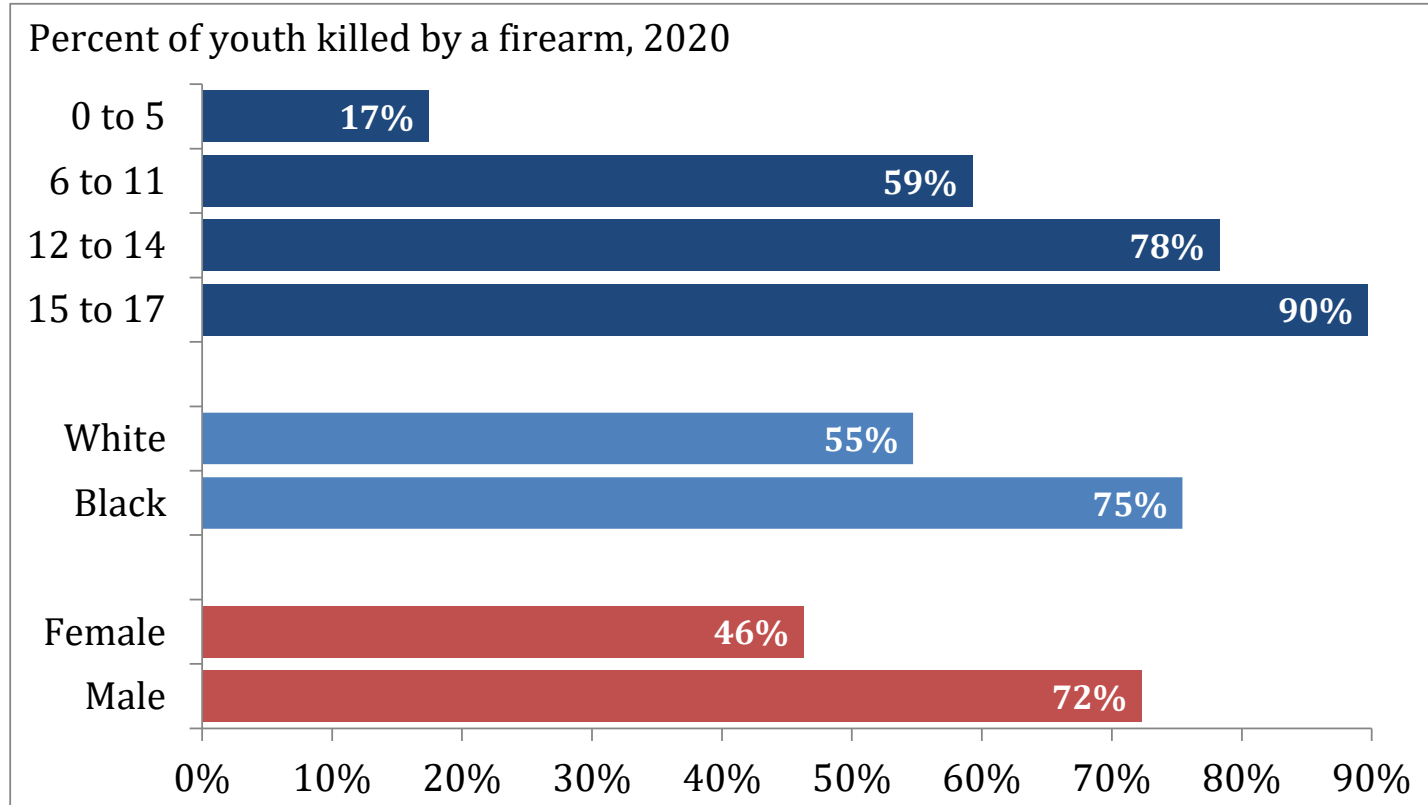
# The number of youth homicide victims had been relatively stable – until 2020



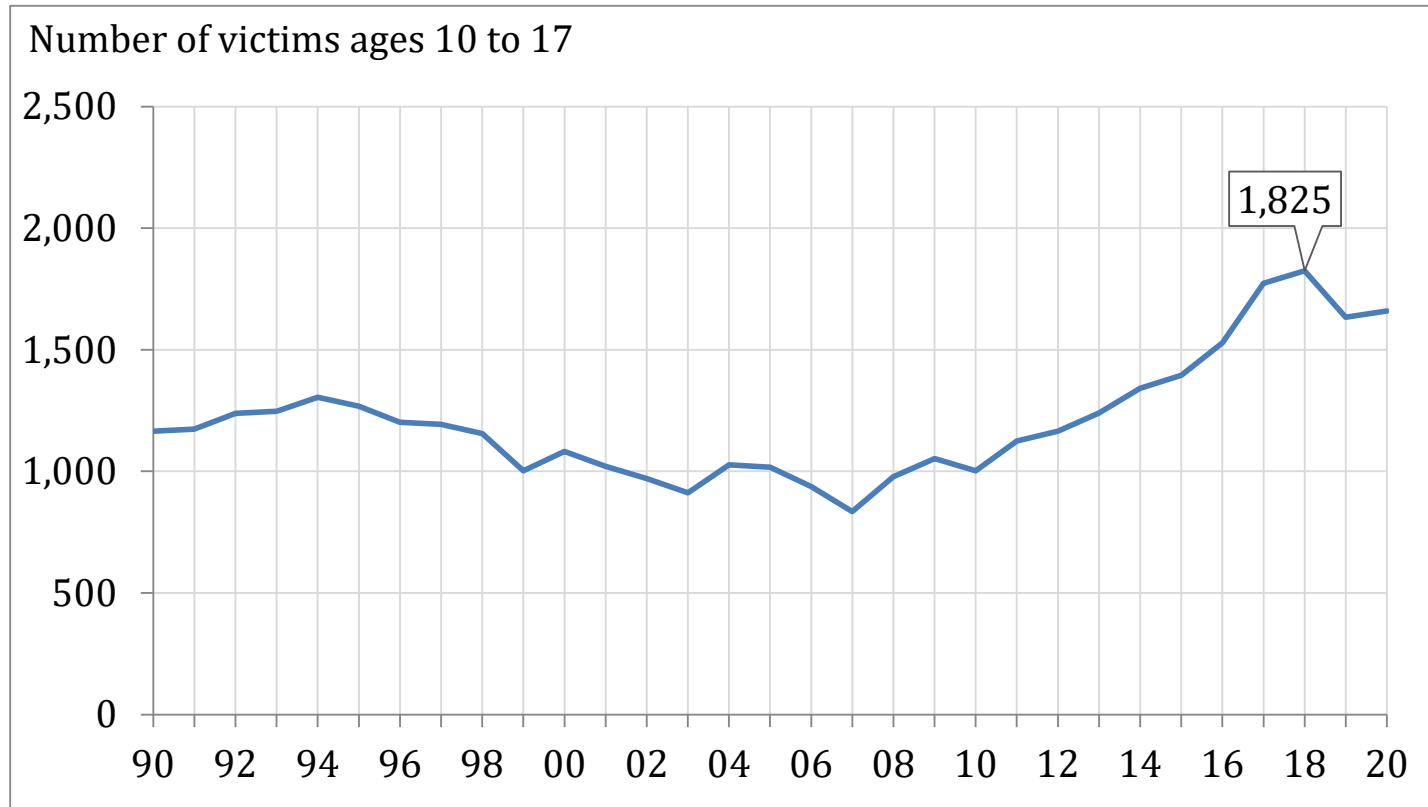
# Firearms were involved in about two-thirds of youth homicides in 2020



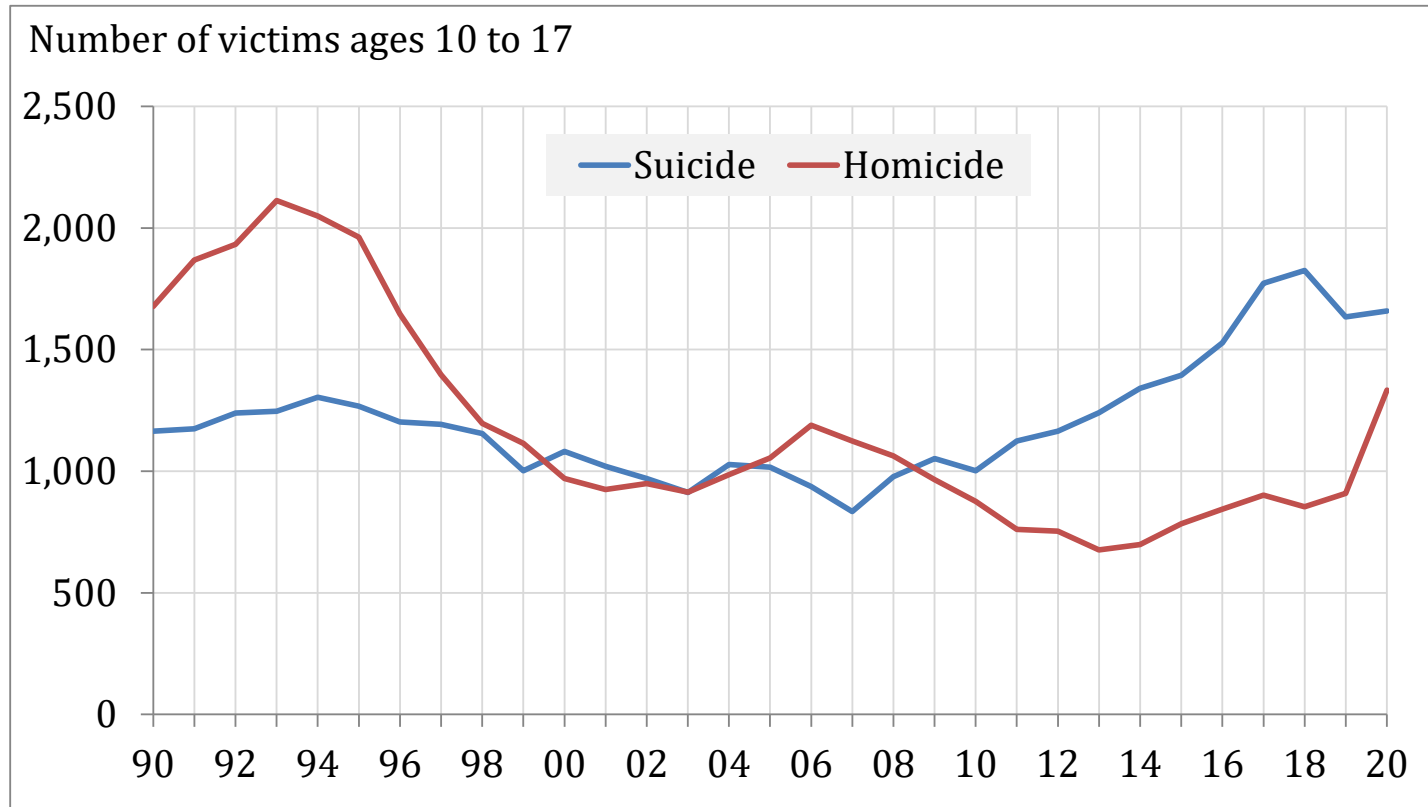
# The proportion of youth killed by a firearm increases with age



# The number of suicides involving youth ages 10 to 17 has increased since the mid-2000s



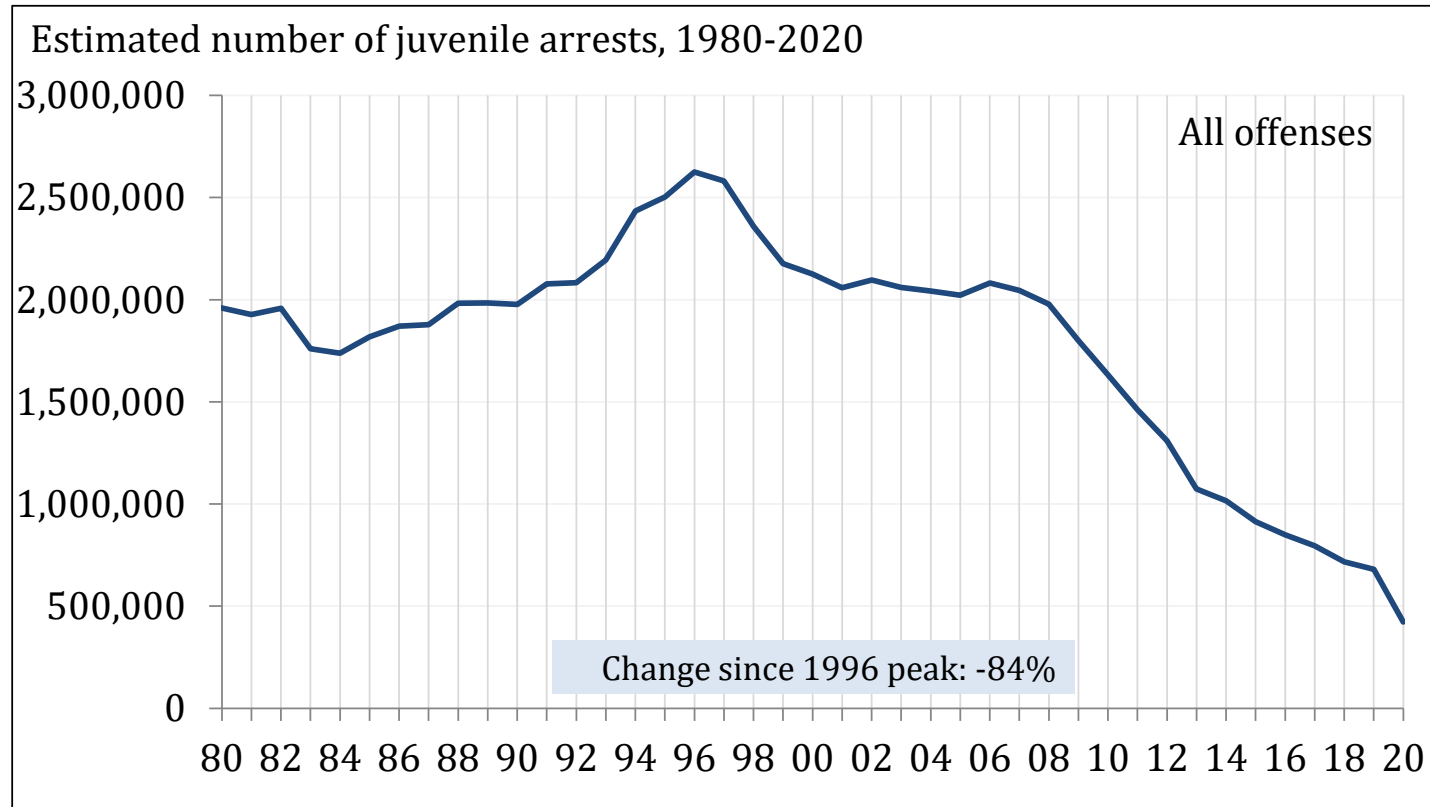
# Youth suicide victims outnumbered youth homicide victims since 2009 - but the gap narrowed in 2020





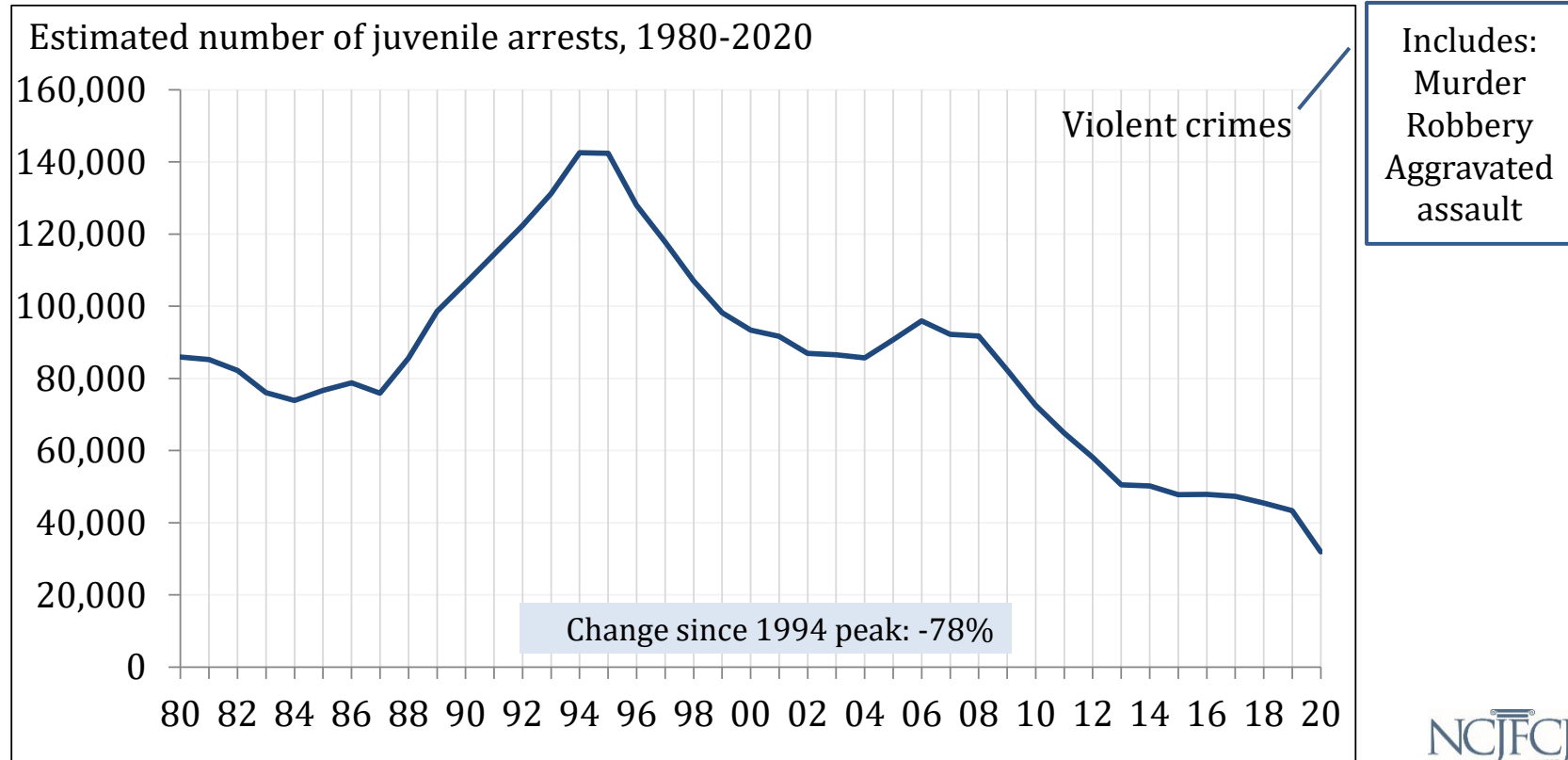
Violent crime by youth is at or  
near historically low levels

# Overall, the number of arrests involving youth has been on the decline since the mid-1990s





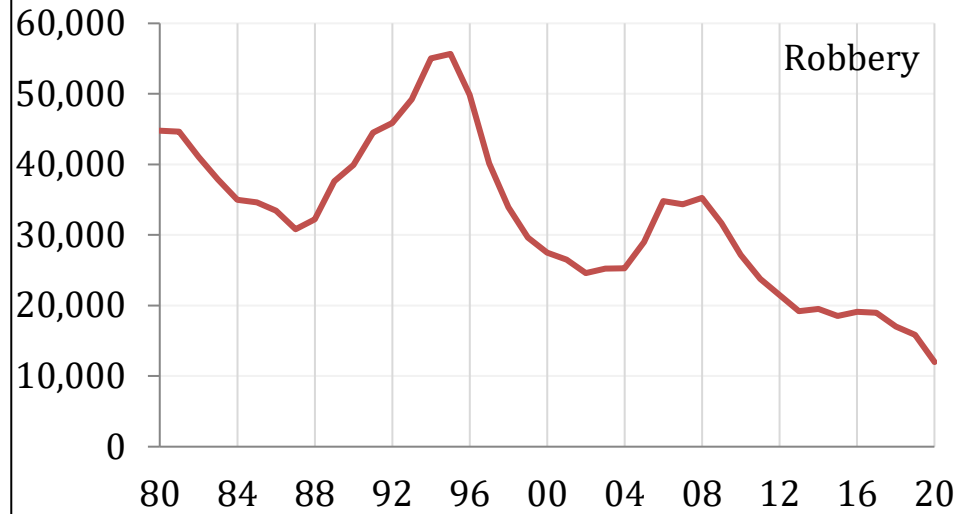
# The number of arrests of youth for violent crimes has declined since the mid-2000s



# Youth arrests for robbery & aggravated assault are well below their prior peaks

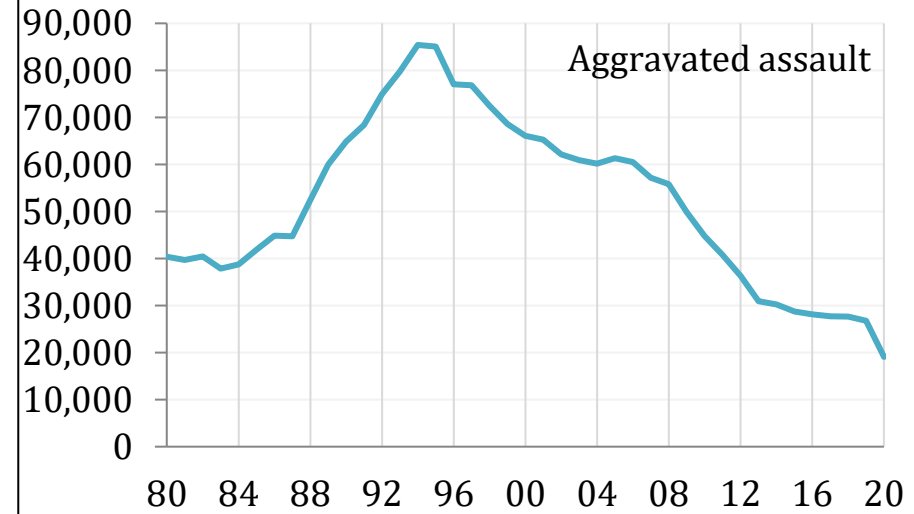
## Robbery

Estimated number of youth (age 0-17) arrests

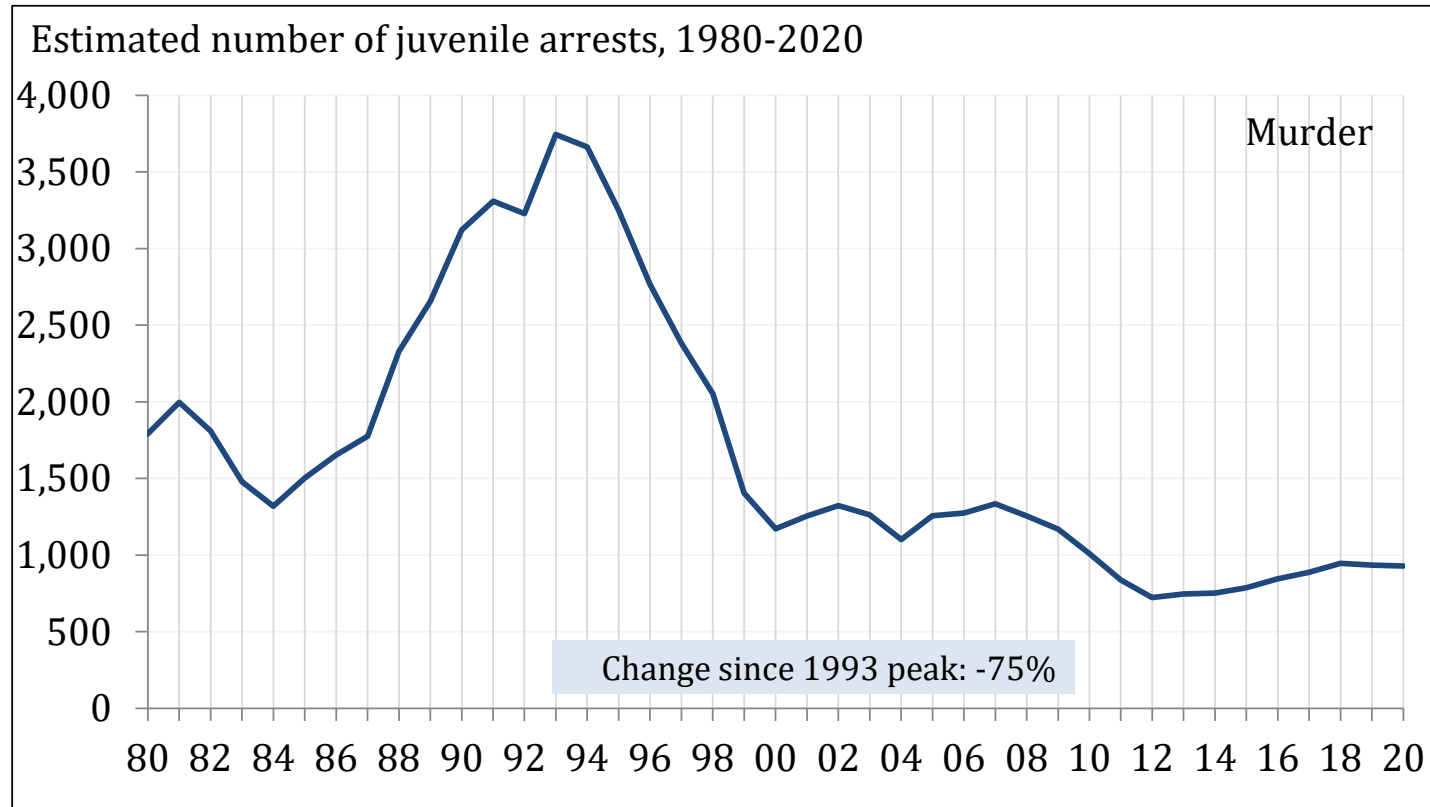


## Aggravated assault

Estimated number of youth (age 0-17) arrests



# Arrests of youth for murder have increased recently, but remain relatively low

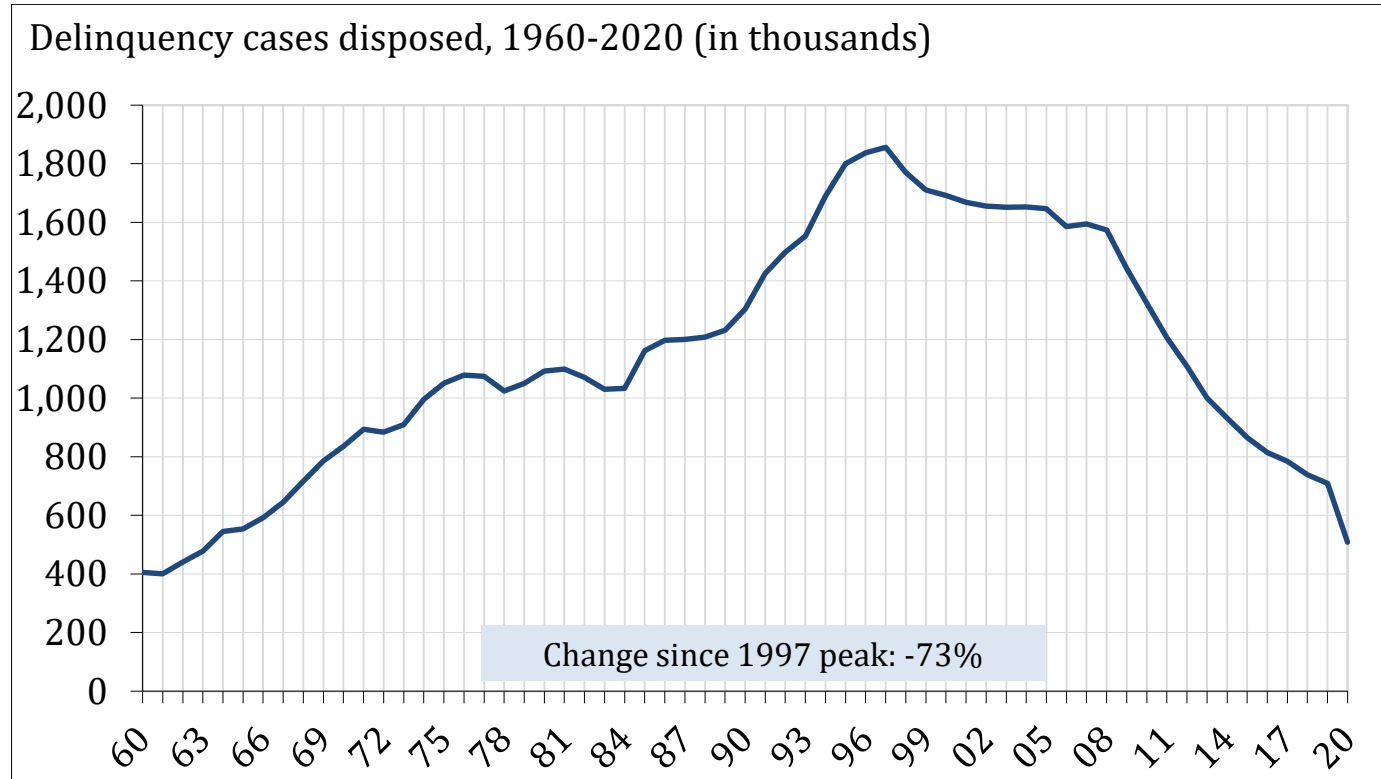




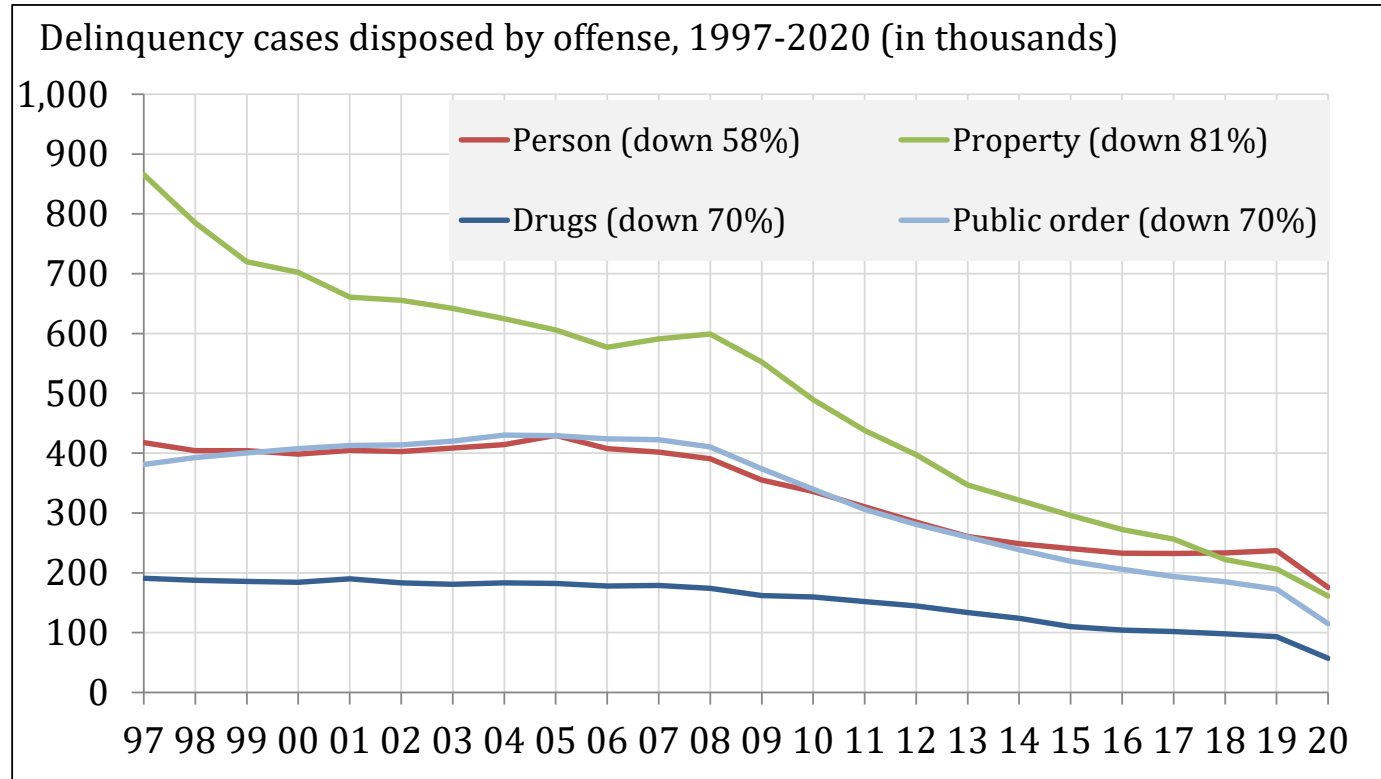
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Fewer delinquency cases are  
being handled in juvenile court

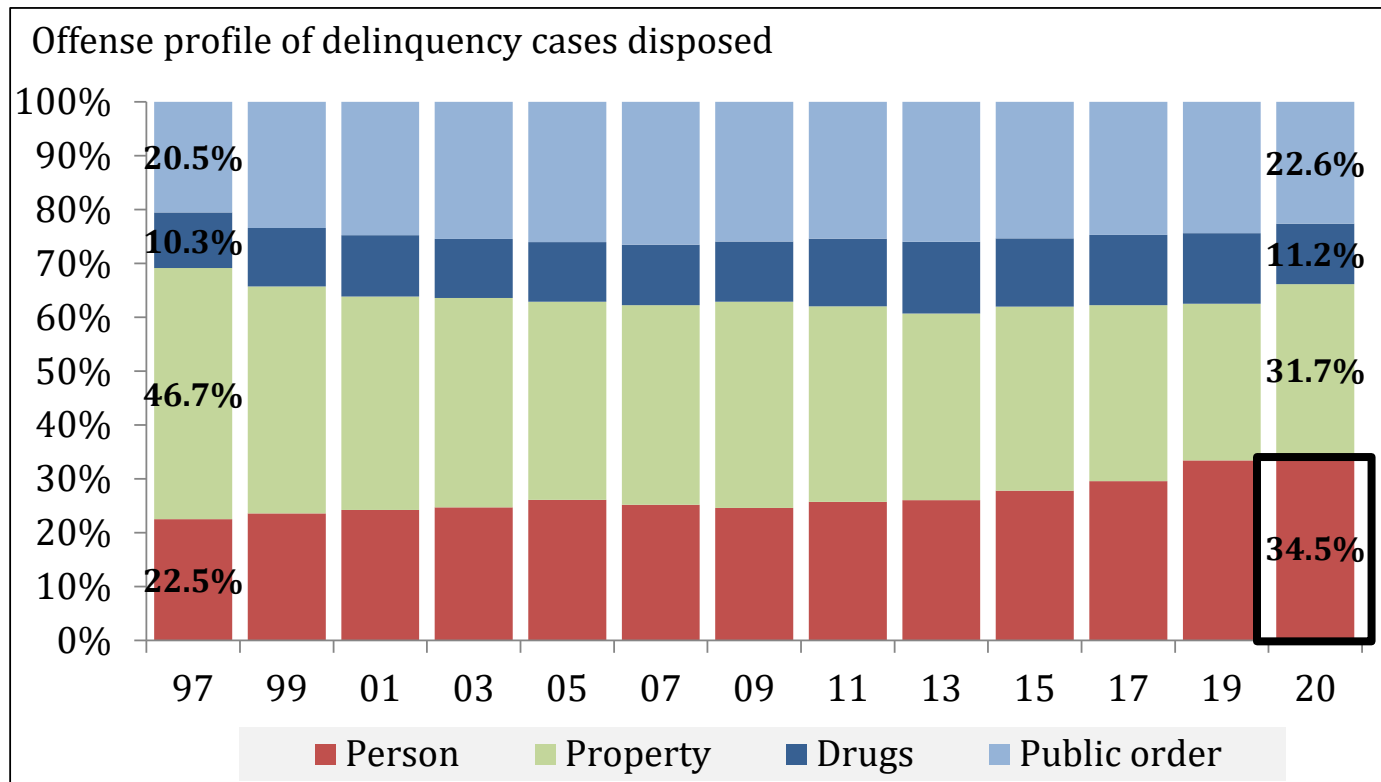
# Delinquency cases handled in juvenile courts reached its lowest level since the 1970s



# Since 1997, the relative decline in property cases outpaced the decline for other offenses

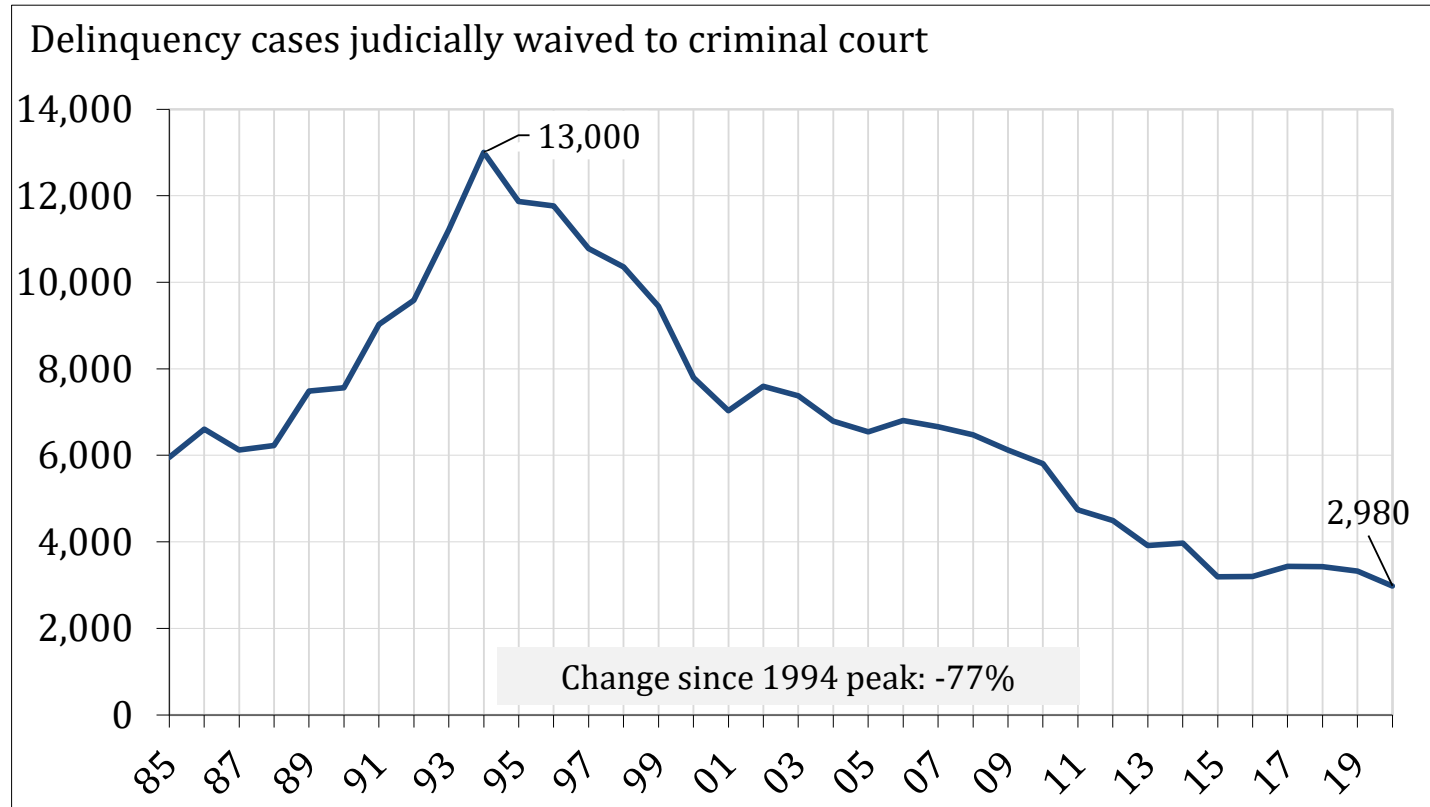


# Person offenses now account for a larger share of cases handled in juvenile court





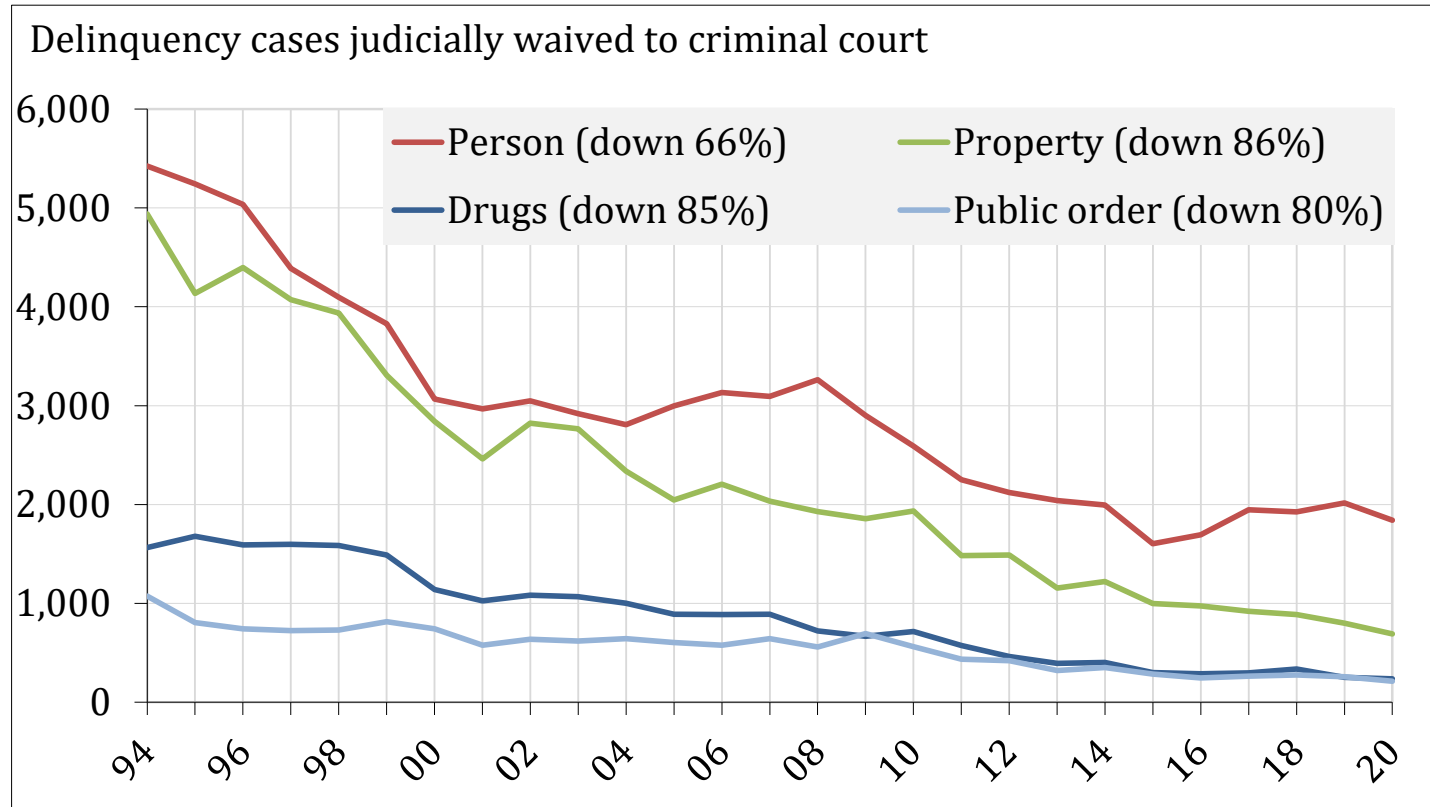
# After reaching a peak in 1994, the number of delinquency cases judicially waived to criminal court declined







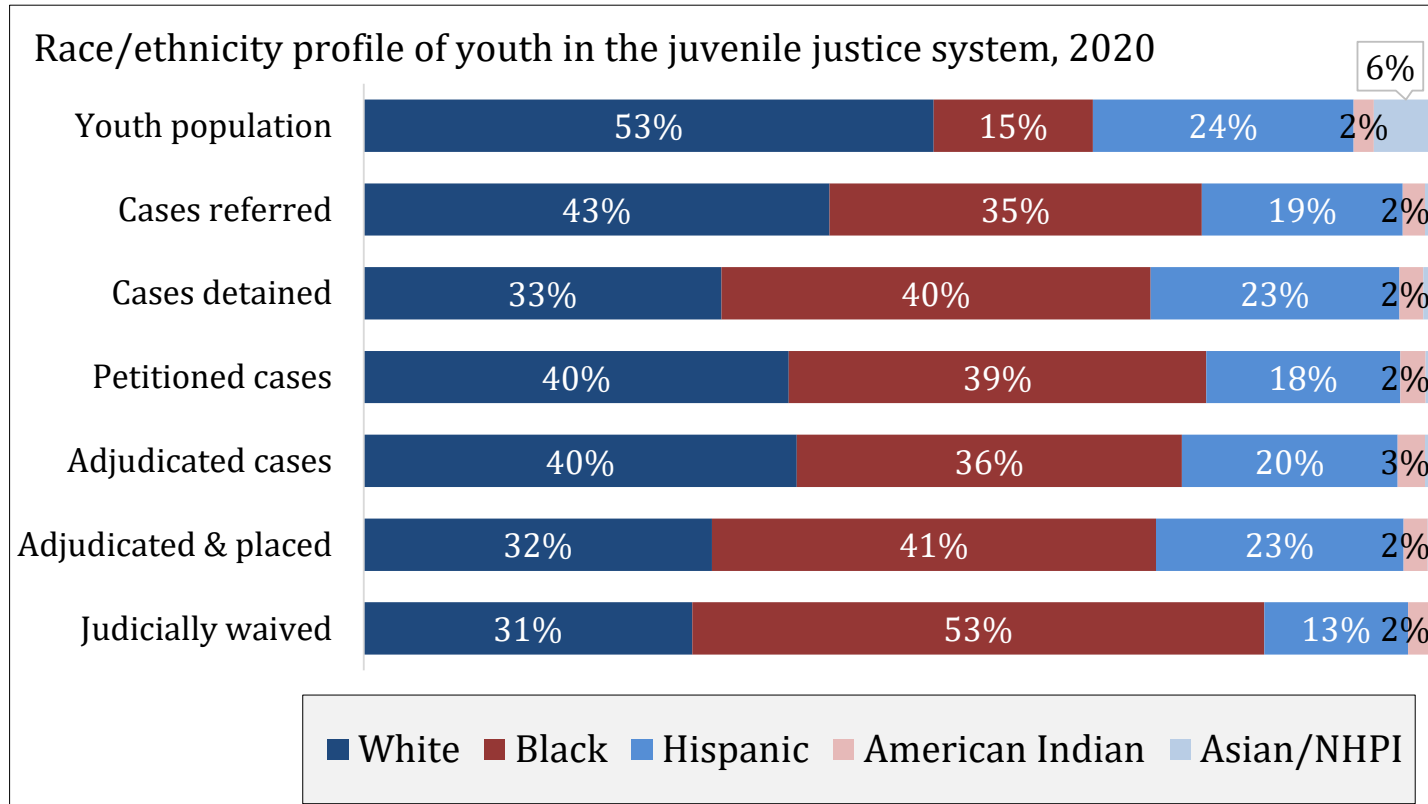
# Since the 1994 peak, the number of cases judicially waived to criminal court declined for all offense types





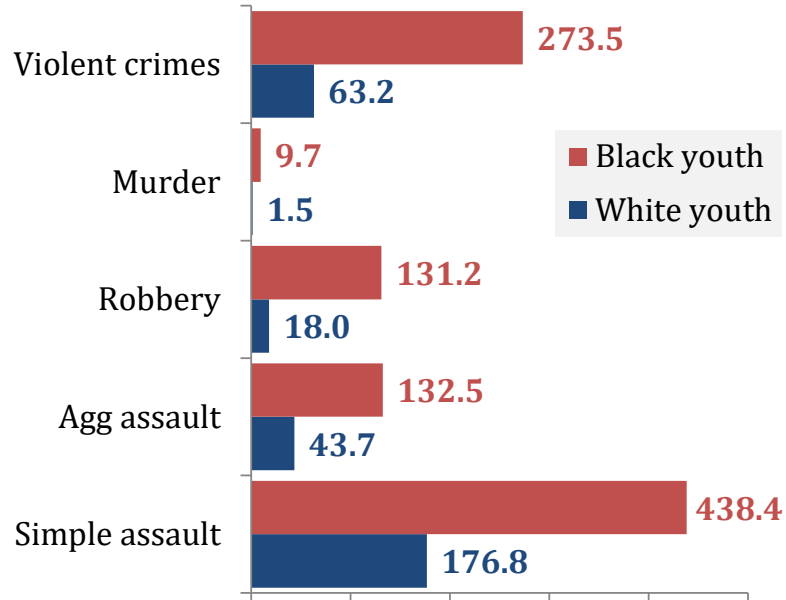
Racial and ethnic minority youth are handled differently than white youth

# Black youth are overrepresented at various stages of the juvenile justice system

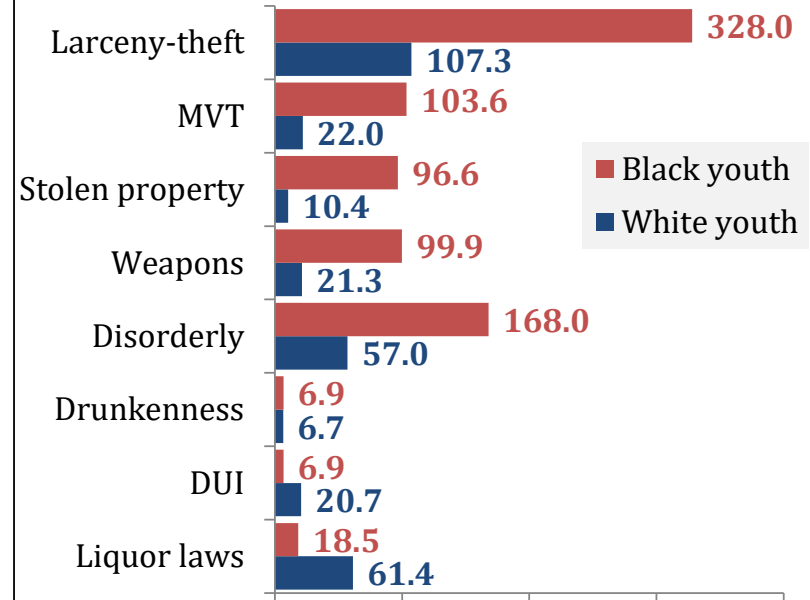


# Comparing rates and ratios is another way to monitor racial & ethnic fairness

Youth arrest rates (per 100,000 youth ages 10-17), 2020

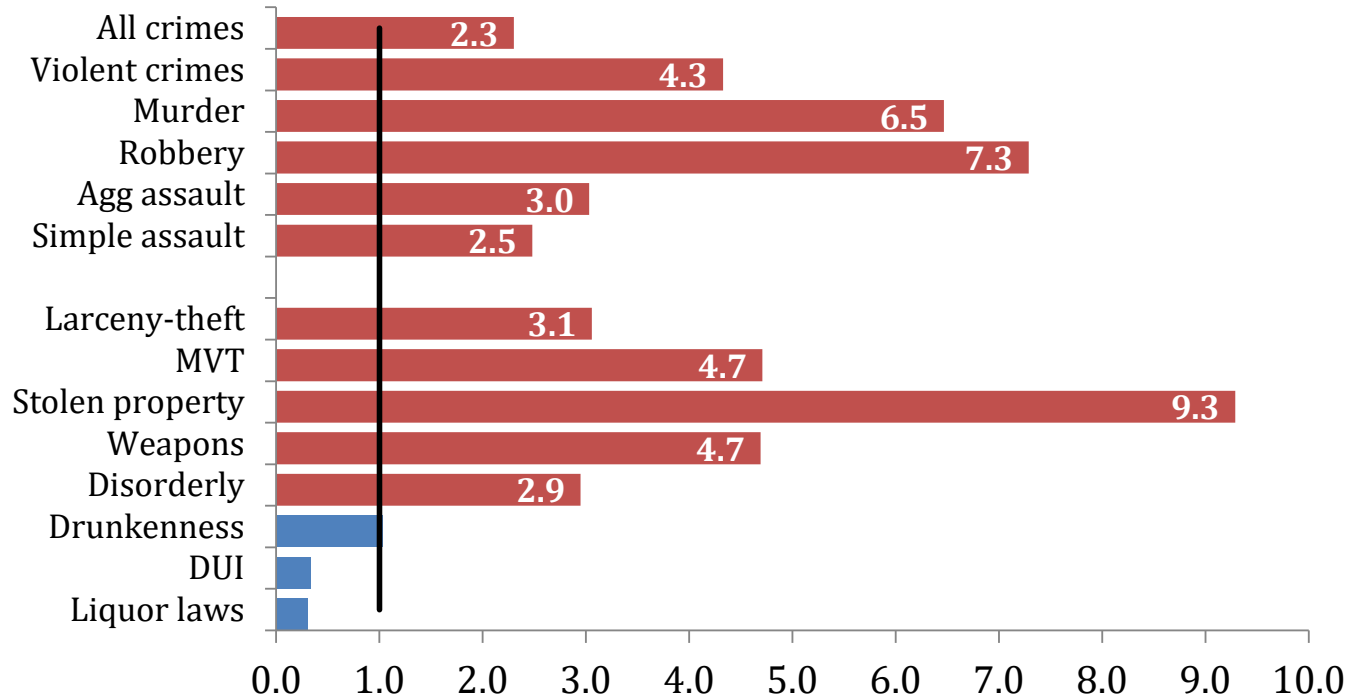


Youth arrest rates (per 100,000 youth ages 10-17), 2020



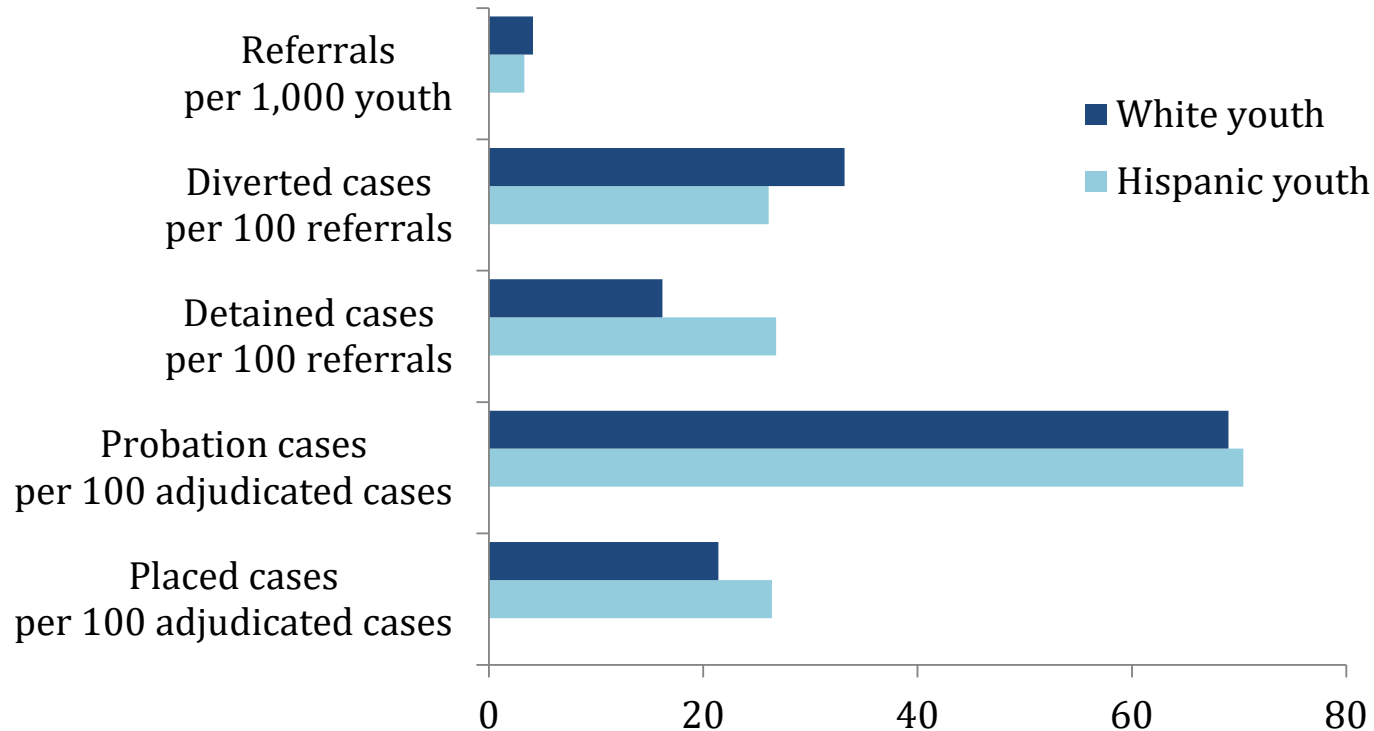
# Overall, Black youth were more than twice as likely to be arrested as white youth in 2020

Ratio of arrest rates between Black youth and white youth, 2020

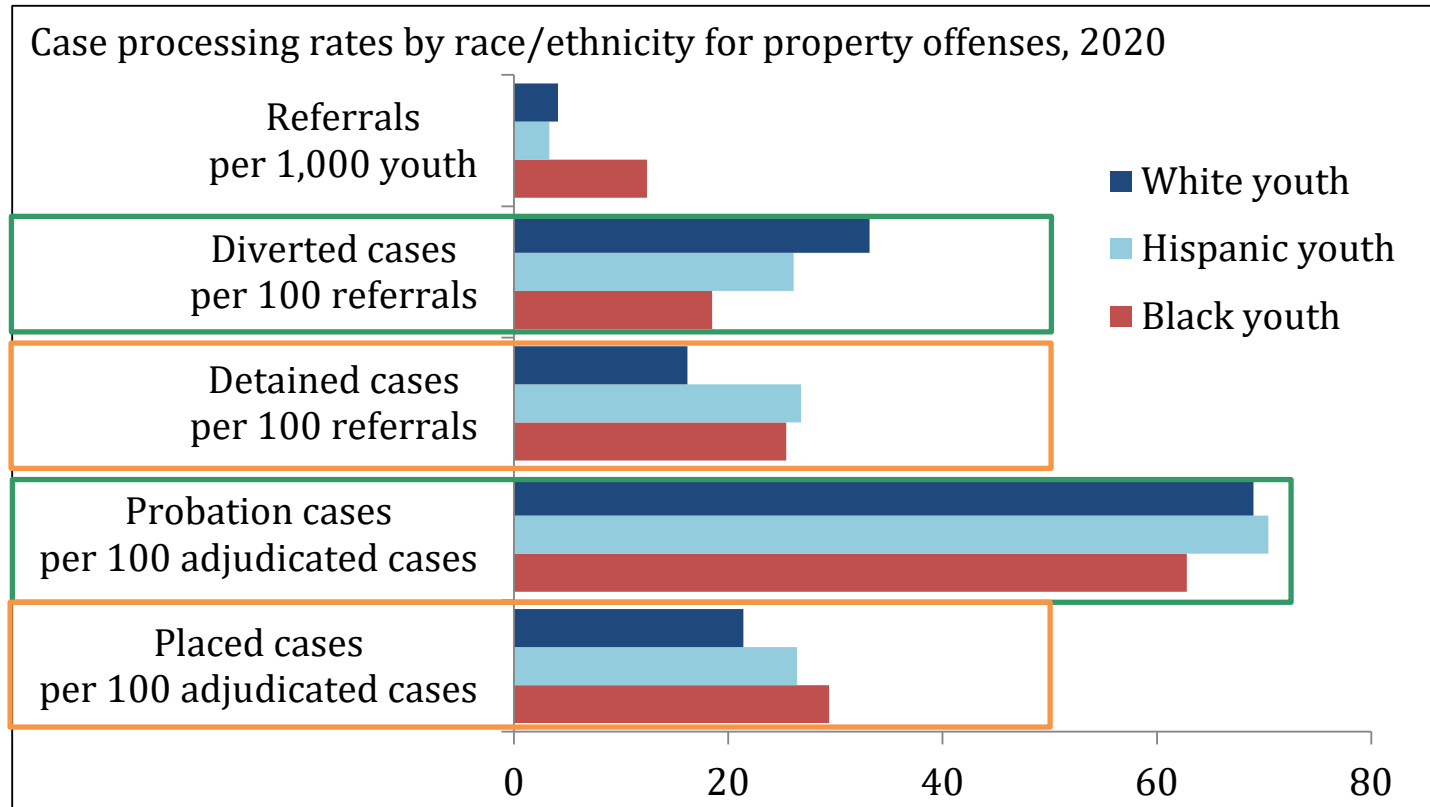


# Court data allows us to compare case processing outcomes by race and ethnicity

Case processing rates by race/ethnicity for property offenses, 2020

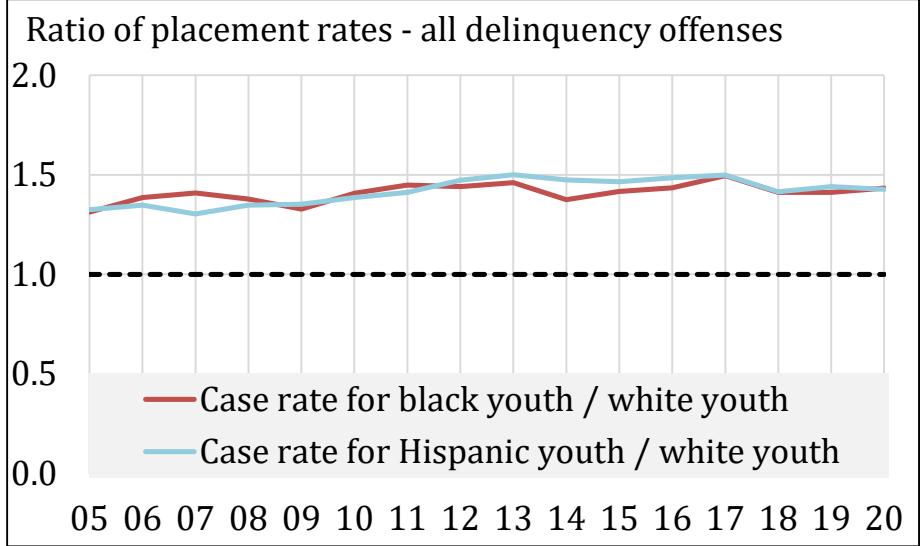
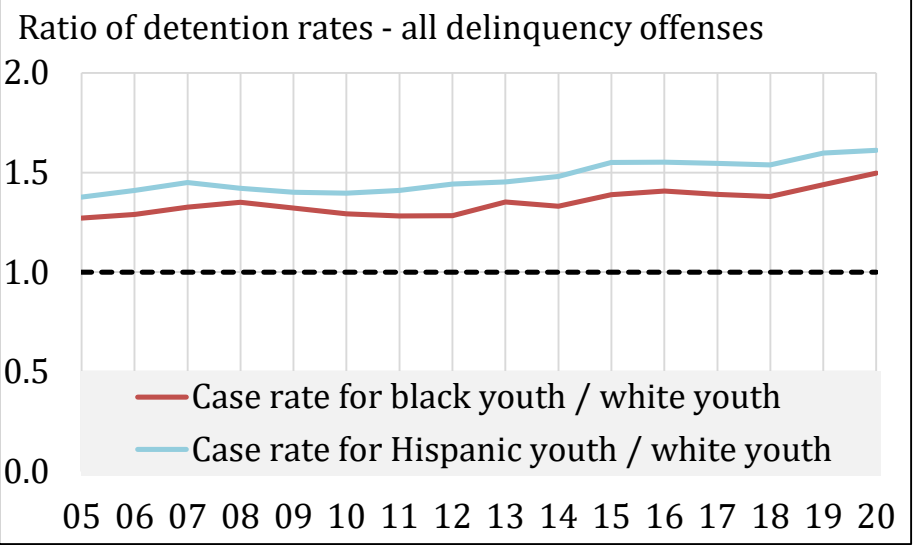


# Court data allow us to compare case processing outcomes by race and ethnicity





# ... a pattern we've seen since at least 2005







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# Most youth referred to juvenile court do not return



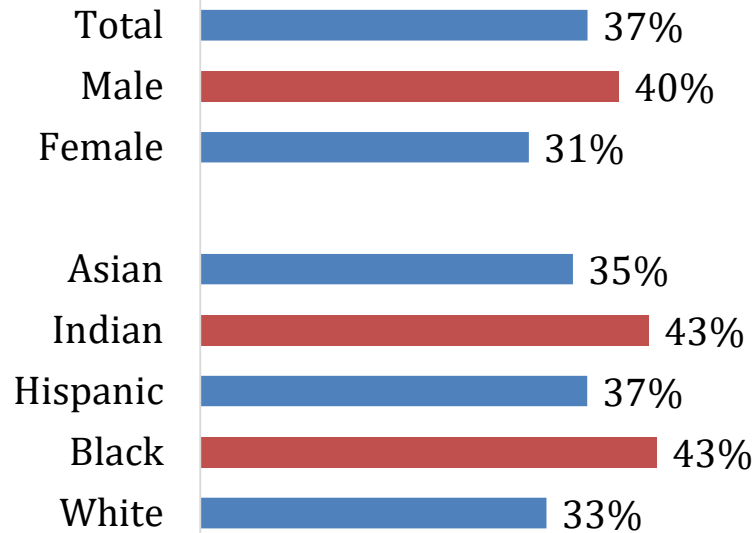
# Recent bulletin describes re-referral patterns of a cohort of youth born in 2000

- Case level data from 17 jurisdictions representing 34% of the youth population at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system
- Cohort included 161,057 youth born in 2000 who had at least one referral to juvenile court; prevalence rate of 12%

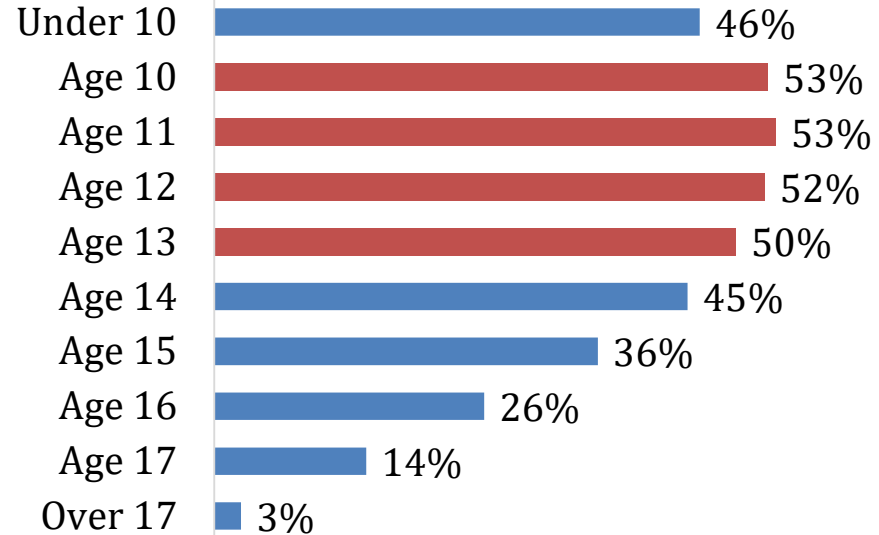


# Most youth in the cohort were “one and done”

Re-referral rate by sex and race

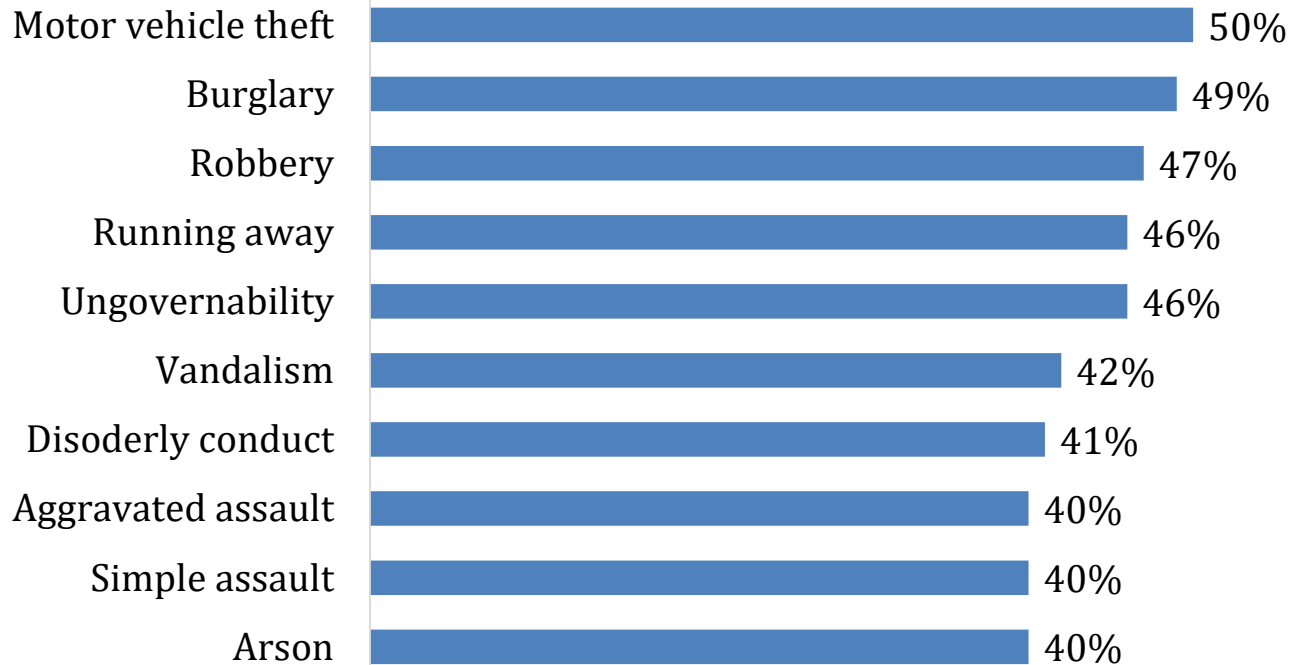


Re-referral rate by age at first referral



# Youth initially referred for motor vehicle theft or burglary were most likely to return

Re-referral rate by offense at first referral

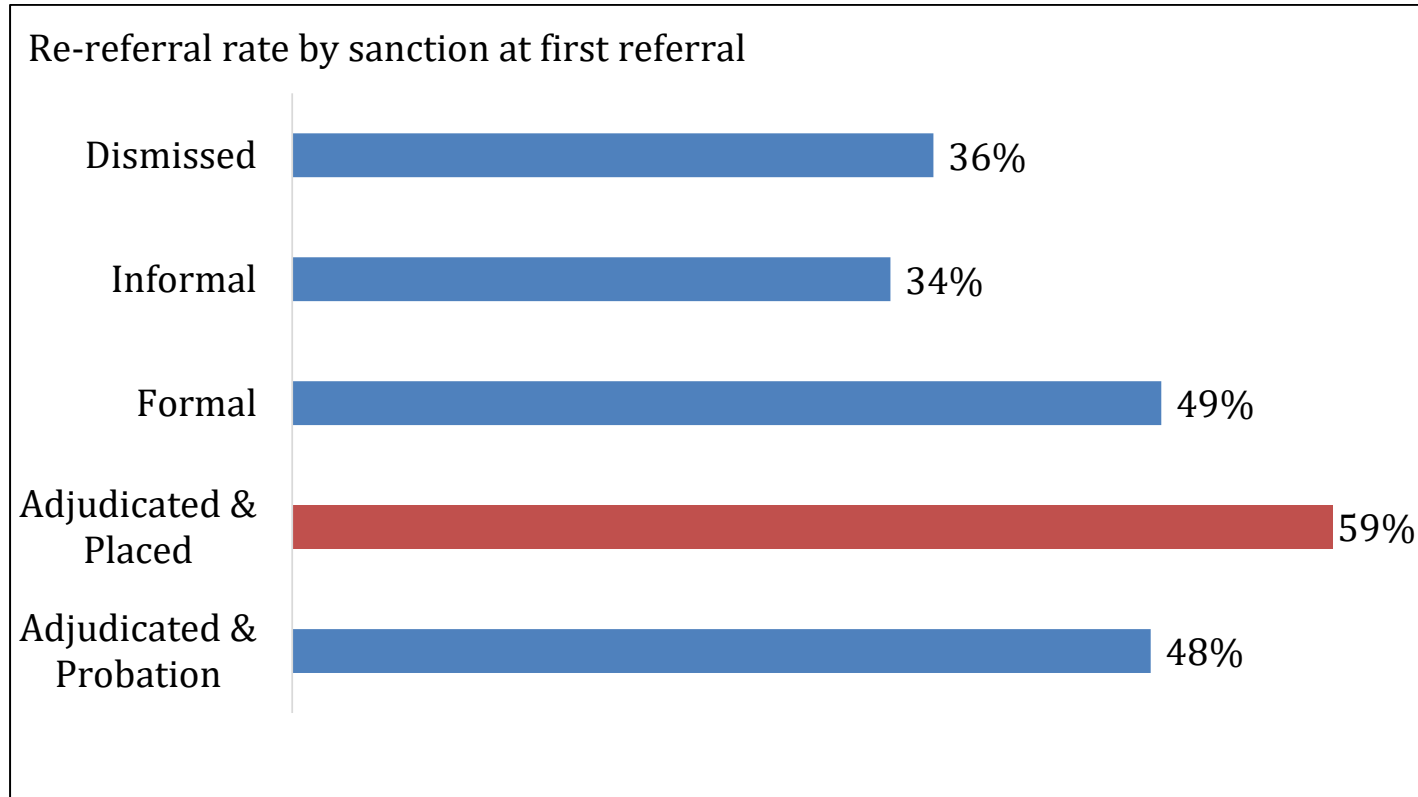


# A small proportion of youth generate a large number of cases

Number of referrals in career	Youth in cohort		Cases generated	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total	161,057	100%	341,923	100%
1 referral	101,739	63%	101,739	30%
2-3 referrals	37,251	23%	86,207	25%
4 or more referrals	22,067	14%	153,977	45%



# Re-referral rates were also related to the disposition at first referral

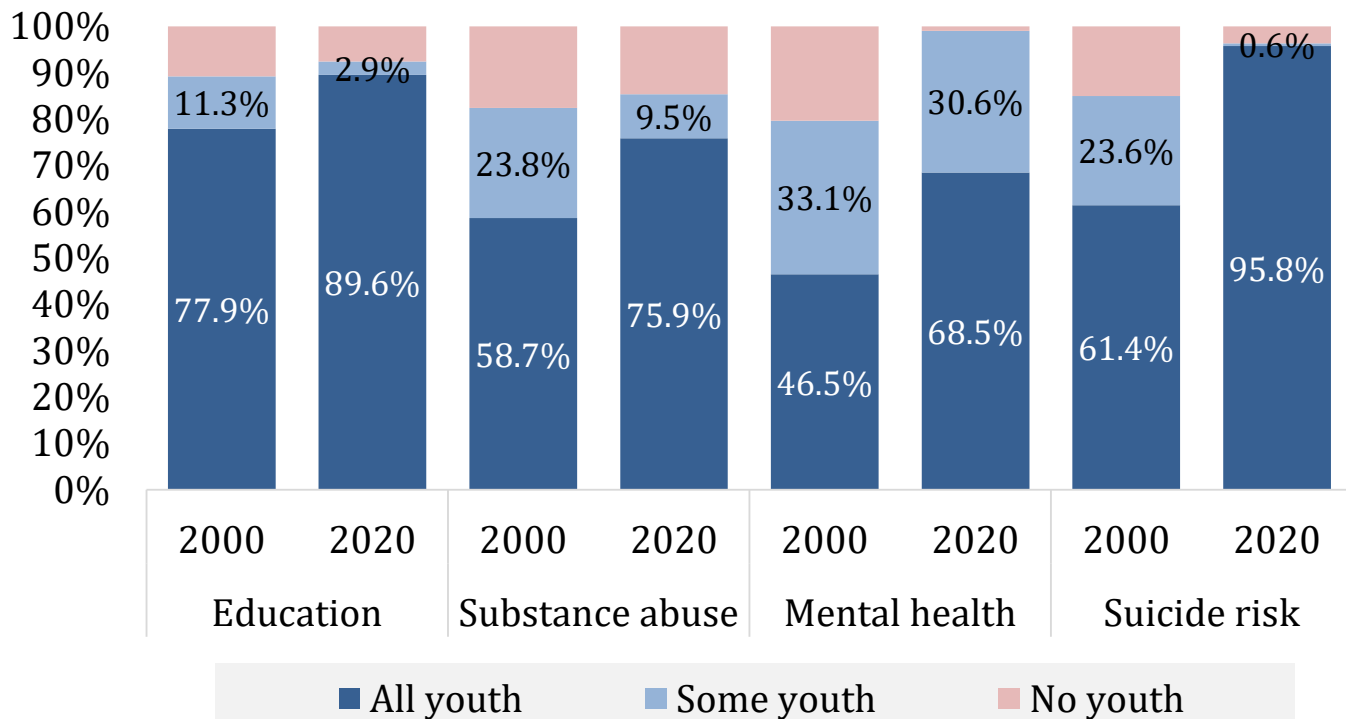




The proportion of residential placement facilities that screen youth for service needs has grown

# The proportion of facilities that screen all youth for service needs has increased

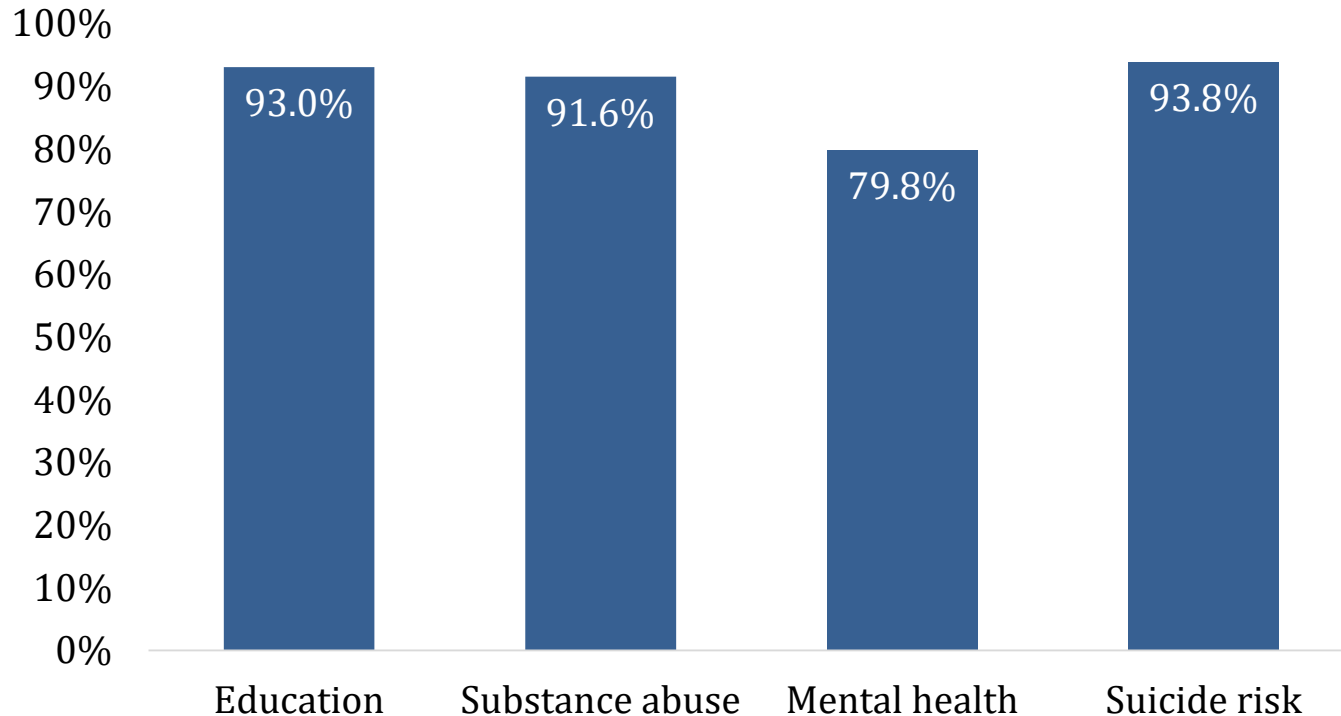
Percent of facilities evaluating youth for service needs





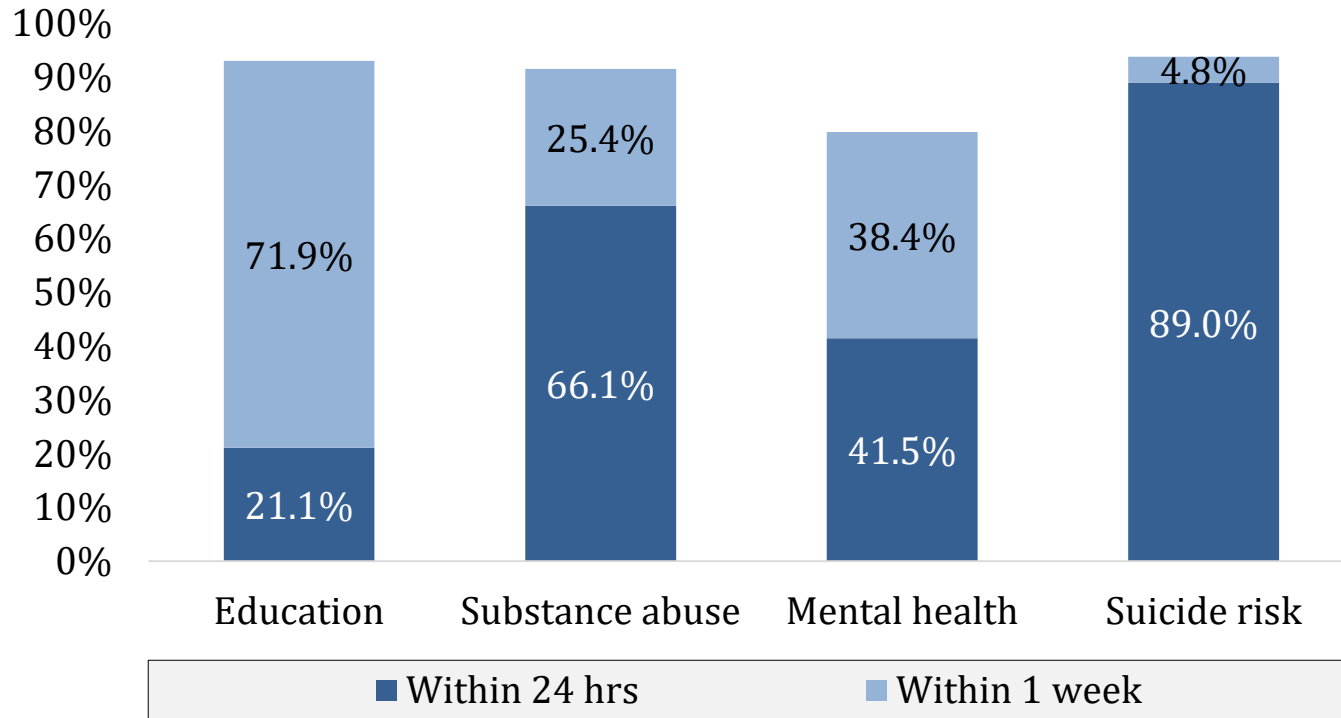
# And most facilities that evaluate for service needs do so within one week of admission

Percent of facilities evaluating youth within 1 week of admission, 2020



# Nearly 90% of facilities that evaluate for suicide risk do so within 24 hours

Percent of facilities evaluating youth for service needs, 2020



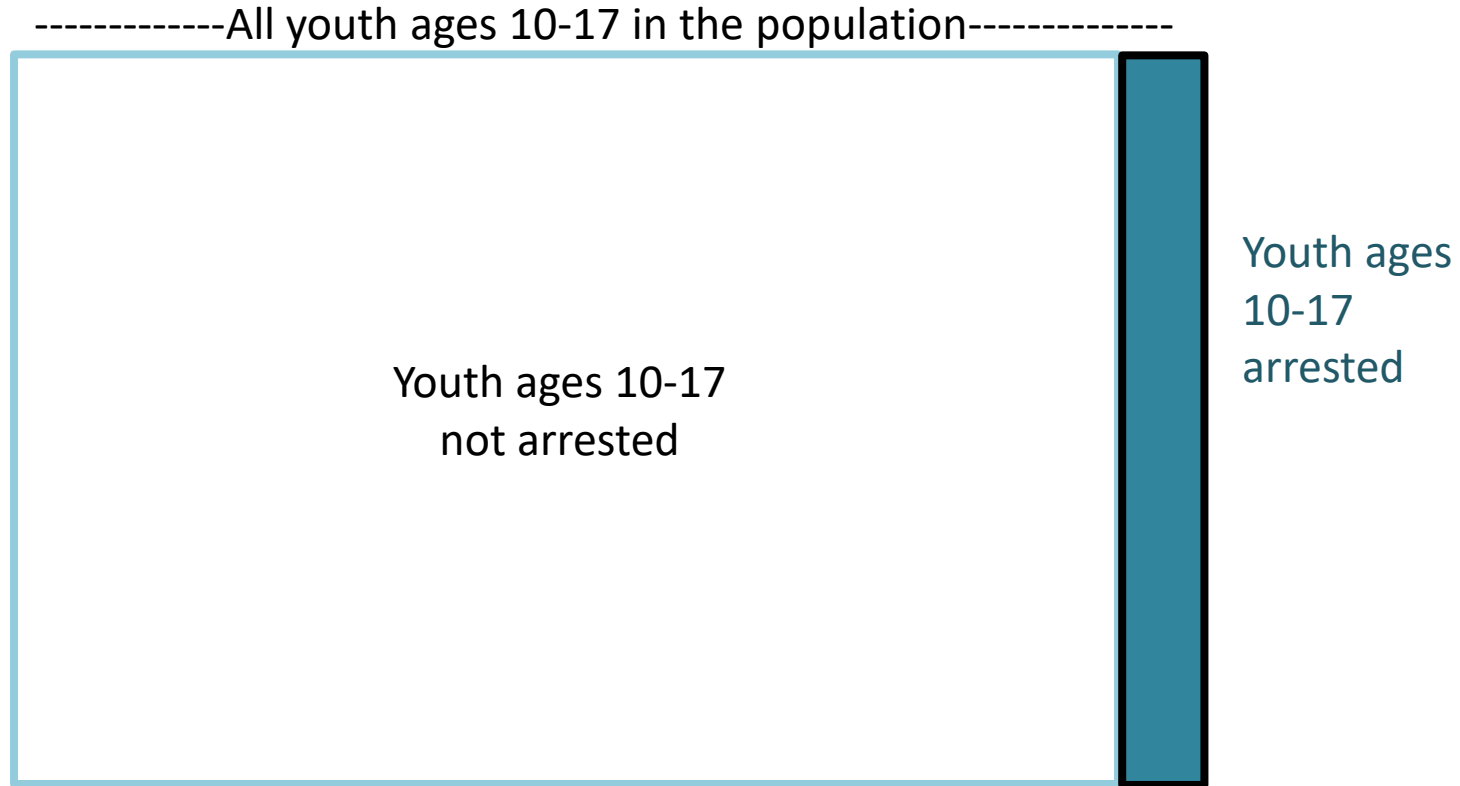
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# The juvenile justice population has changed

Beware of how one's perceptions  
may be fooled into thinking  
juvenile crime is getting more serious



# In 1995, about 9% of youth were arrested





Of those, 5% were arrested for violent crimes—  
we'll call them **High Risk**





# JJ reforms try to keep youth posing **no risk** out of the system





# Court's use of risk screening tries to divert the **lowest risk** youth away from formal court intervention





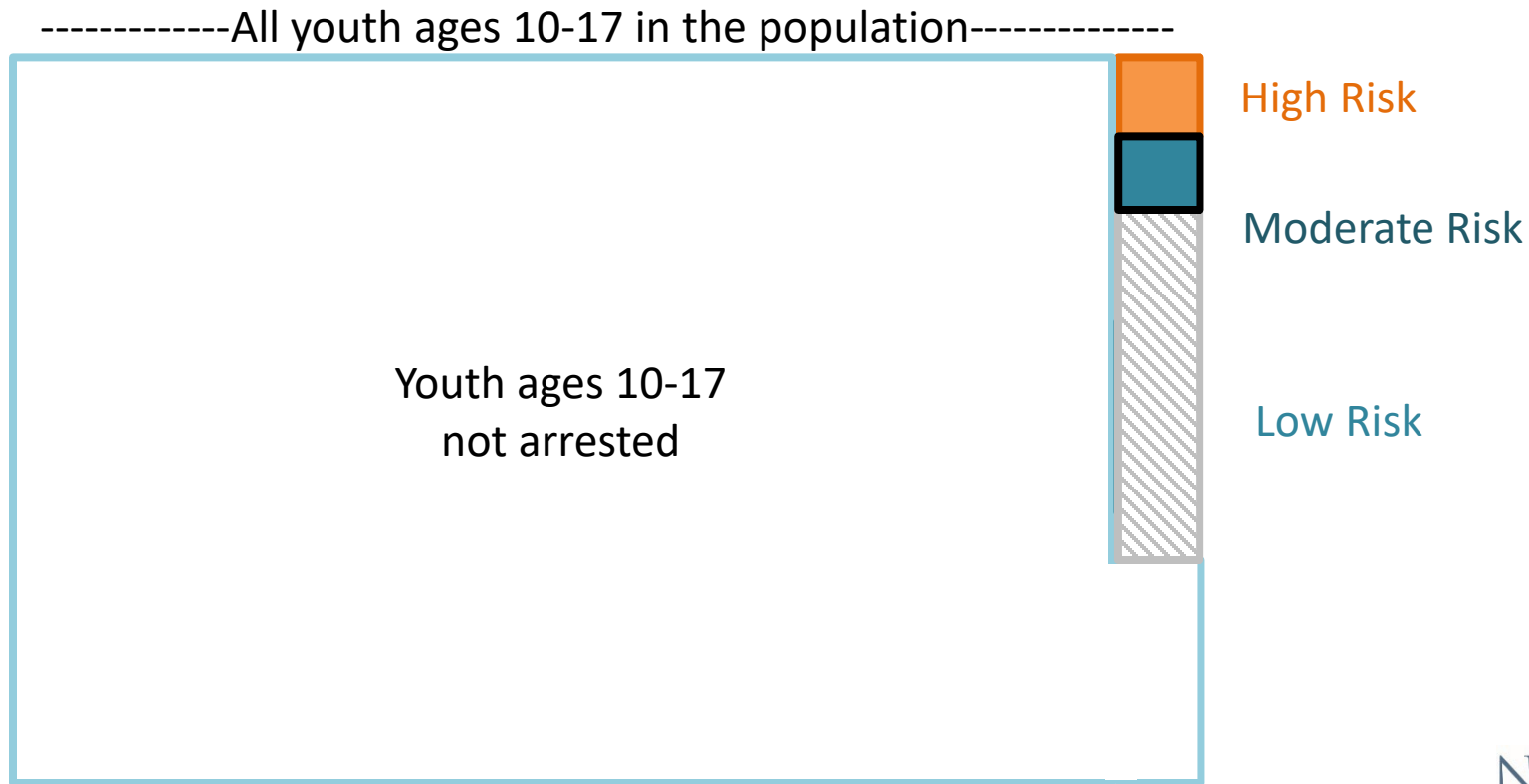
In many places, **low risk** youth are diverted from residential placement and even probation





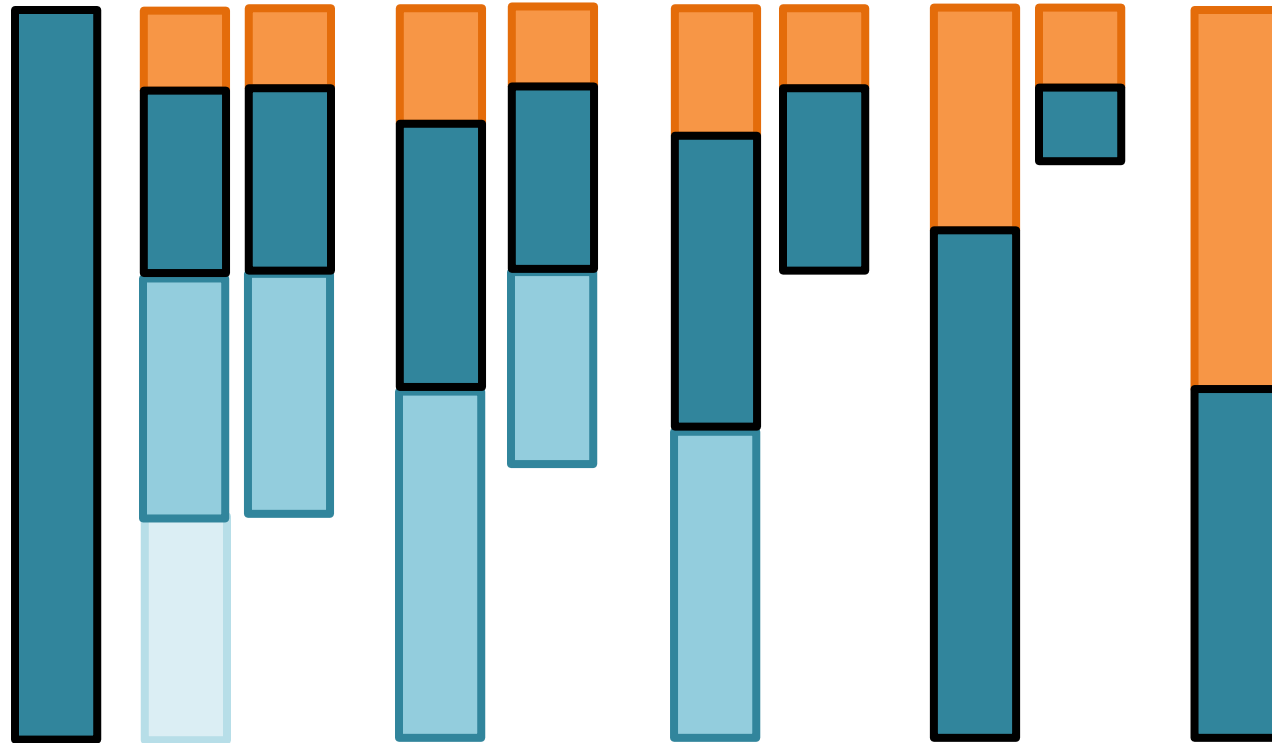


# State corrections agencies should only be seeing **high risk** and some of the **moderate risk** youth





# Changing reality can influence our perceptions



Changing reality also has implications for staff, staff training, staffing levels, and resources needed.

## Youth and the Juvenile Justice System

2022 NATIONAL REPORT



## Visit OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book:



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