

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



OJJDP

Session 3: Juvenile Hearing Boards of Rhode Island: A Restorative Justice-Based Statewide Diversion Intervention

September 6, 2023

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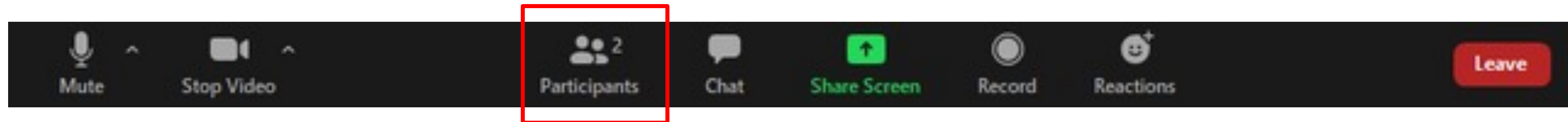
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Welcome from OJJDP



THE RHODE ISLAND JHB MODEL



[Video Credit: Rhode Island PBS](#)

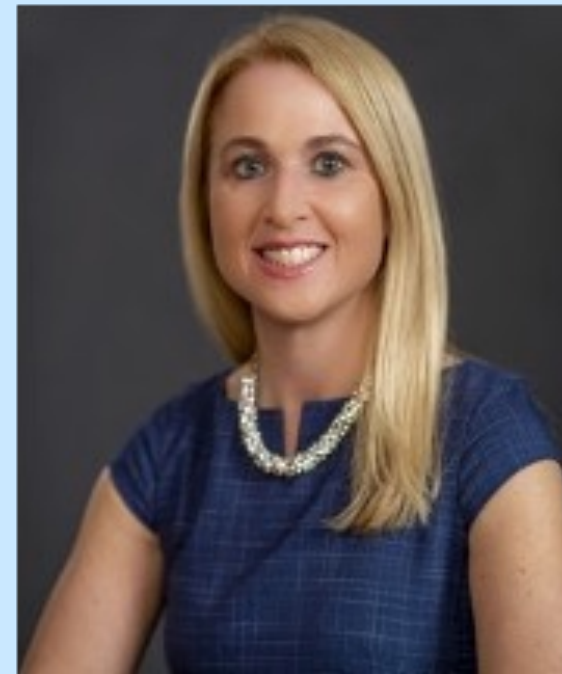
Meet the Rhode Island Team



Toby Ayers, PhD
Executive Director,
Rhode Island for Community
and Justice



Kelsey Bala, MPH
Policy Analyst,
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT



Beth Bixby, MSW, LICSW
Chief Executive Officer,
Tides Family Services



Larome Myrick, PhD
Executive Director,
Division of Youth
Development, Rhode Island
Department of Children, Youth
and Families



Gina Tocco
Juvenile Justice Grant
Administrator, Rhode Island
Department of Public Safety



Jessica Vega, MA
Senior Policy Analyst,
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The issue of BIPOC youth being disproportionately referred into the juvenile justice system has been identified as a significant public health concern.

Since 2020, there has been a surge in the number of young people entering the juvenile justice system, surpassing the capacity of staff and alternatives to incarceration.

PRIORITIZING OUR YOUTH



- **Prevention:** Ensure youth do not enter a formalized Juvenile Justice System
 - i.e., Juvenile Hearing Boards
- **Diversion:** Prevent youth from going to community supervision or incarceration
 - i.e., Family Court Diversion Program
- **Systems:** Youth who are either on supervision or incarcerated
 - i.e., Probation or Training School
- **Aftercare:** Youth who are transitioning out or leaving the system
 - i.e., Reentry/Aftercare

MISSION



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

The Division of Youth Development consists of the Rhode Island Training School, and Office of Juvenile Probation.

The Division of Youth Development promotes the rehabilitation of youth through a continuum of flexible, innovative, and effective programs for male and female youth.

The Division of Youth Development strives to promote positive outcomes for youth and to reduce recidivism for youth within the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

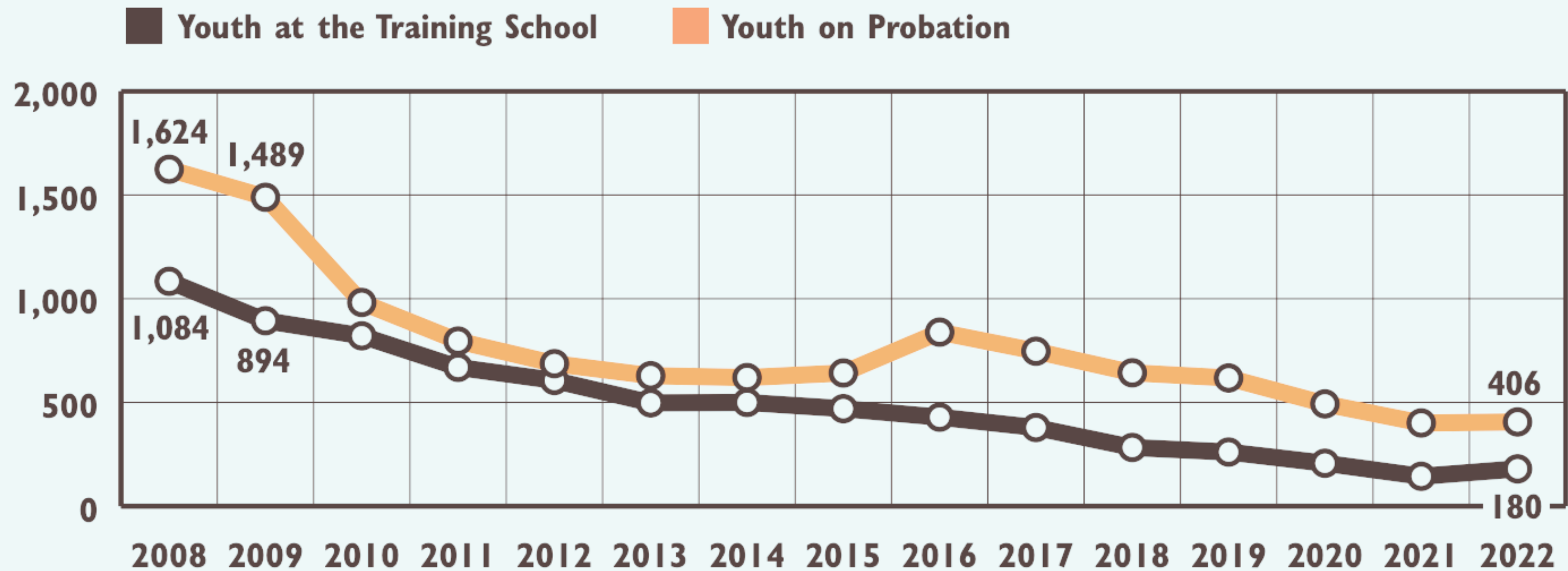
Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Rhode Island's Juvenile Justice System

During 2022, non-Hispanic Black youth made up 24% of youth at the Training School and 20% of youth on probation, while making up only 6% of the total child population.

Hispanic youth made up 42% of youth at the Training School and 37% of youth on probation, while making up 27% of the total child population.

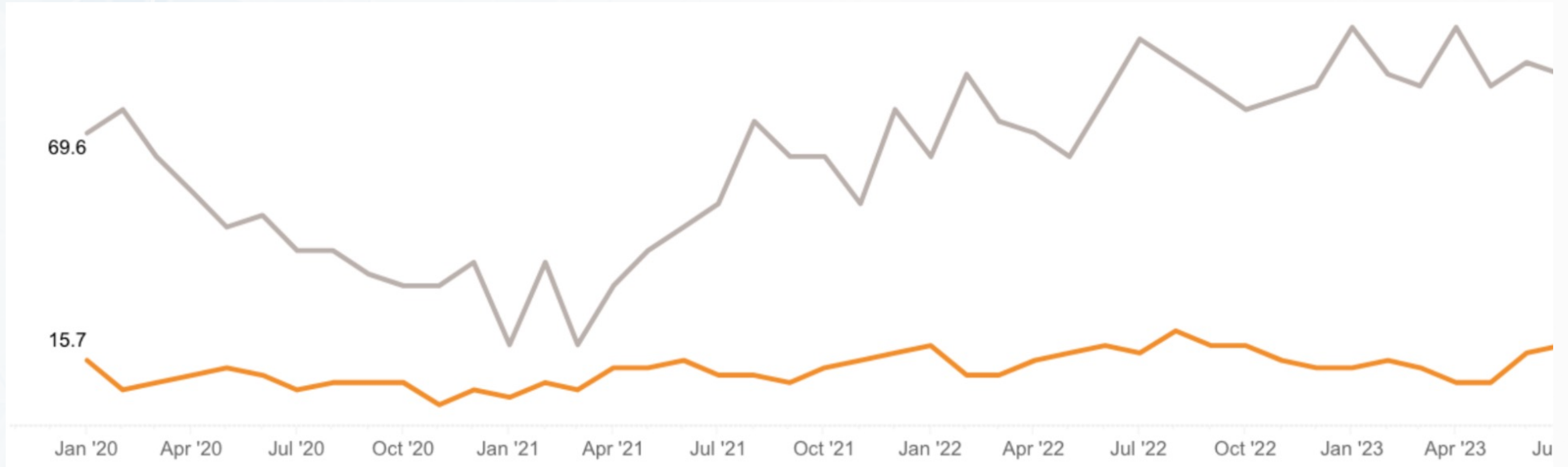
	% OF TOTAL CHILD POPULATION, 2020	% OF YOUTH AT THE RITS, 2022	% OF YOUTH ON PROBATION, 2022
American Indian	<1%	2%	1%
Asian	3%	1%	<1%
Black	6%	24%	20%
Hispanic	27%	42%	37%
Multiracial	8%	6%	6%
Pacific Islander	<1%	1%	<1%
White	53%	24%	35%
Unknown	NA	1%	<1%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>209,785</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>406</i>

Rhode Island's Detention and Probation Populations, Calendar Years 2008–2022



Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Rhode Island's Detention Population

White
Youth of Color

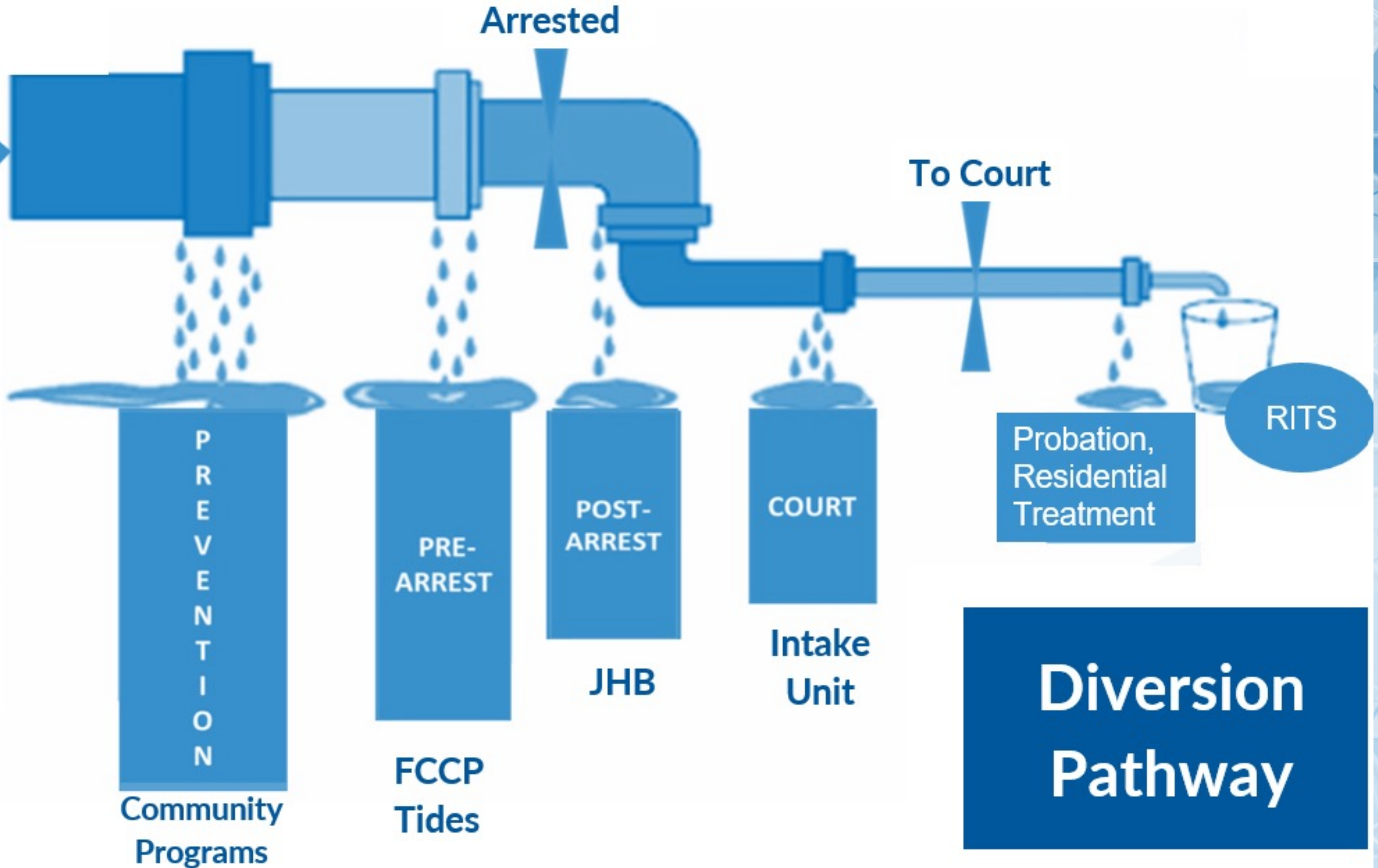


Detention population per 100,000 10-17 year old youth by race/ethnicity in the general population



Juvenile Hearing Boards and the Juvenile Justice System

Youth at Risk of Arrest



RHODE ISLAND YOUTH JUSTICE ZONES

Complaint

Arrest

Diversion

Secure
Detention

Intake
(Family
Court)

Court
Hearing

Pre-Trial
Disposition

Adjudication

RHODE ISLAND POWER MAPPING

MAPPING LEGEND: Action Decision Outcome



Zone 1-Complaint

Allegation of Delinquent Act from
Police | Citizen | Parent | Businesses

Allegation of Delinquent Act
from School

Police
Referral
Decision

Divert
...or...
Do
Nothing?

No formal system
involvement for
alleged act

EXIT

Zone 2- Arrest

EXIT

No formal system
involvement for alleged act

No Probable
Cause Found

Probable Cause Found

POLICE DECISIONS

Do
Nothing

Divert

Paper
Charge

Arrest &
Charge

Zone 3 -Diversion

Refer to
Diversion Program

Youth Enters
Diversion Services

Successful Completion

Unsuccessful Completion

CASE CLOSED

No further system
involvement for
alleged act

Send Petition to
Family Court

Go to Zone 5

Refer to
JHB

Youth Enters JHB
Diversion Services

Successful Completion

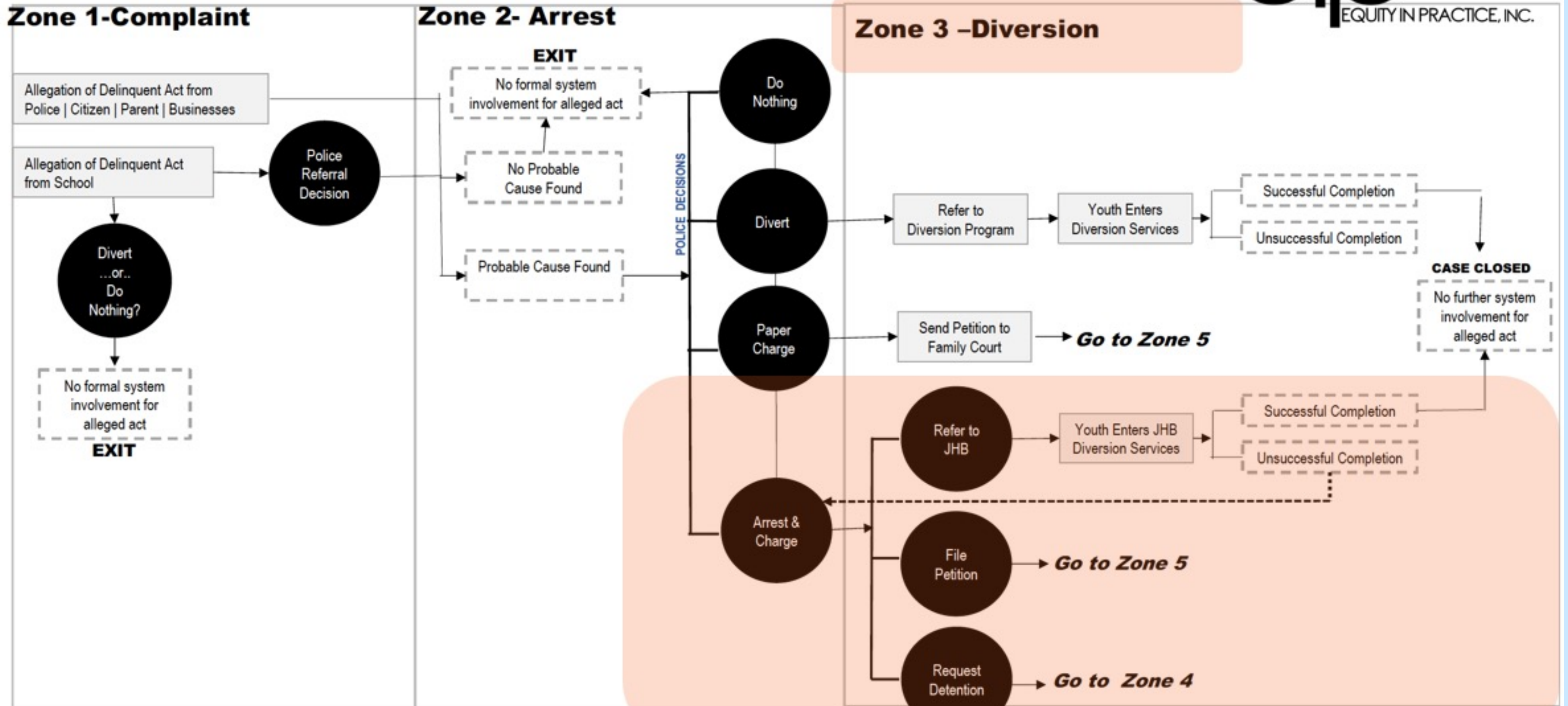
Unsuccessful Completion


File
Petition

Go to Zone 5

Request
Detention

Go to Zone 4





The Role of Juvenile Hearing Boards and Restorative Justice

7 TYPICAL STEPS OF A JHB HEARING

2. Detective, youth, & parents enter the room, introduce themselves & the case.



3. Juvenile presents the case from their POV.



1. members arrive early to review all cases.



4. Members ask questions of the youth



5. Parents may speak or ask questions.



6. While people wait outside, members caucus to determine the appropriate decision.



7. Youth & parents are brought into the room, informed. They sign an agreement to the sanctions, & to follow-up.



THE PROCESS

JHB hearing: Youth and guardian meet with community panel to agree on meaningful sanctions that hold the youth accountable, repair harm, & connect youth to services.



The result: Youth completes community-based requirements. JHB members check in on progress after 3-6 months. No criminal record at court!

JHB'S ARE A YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM

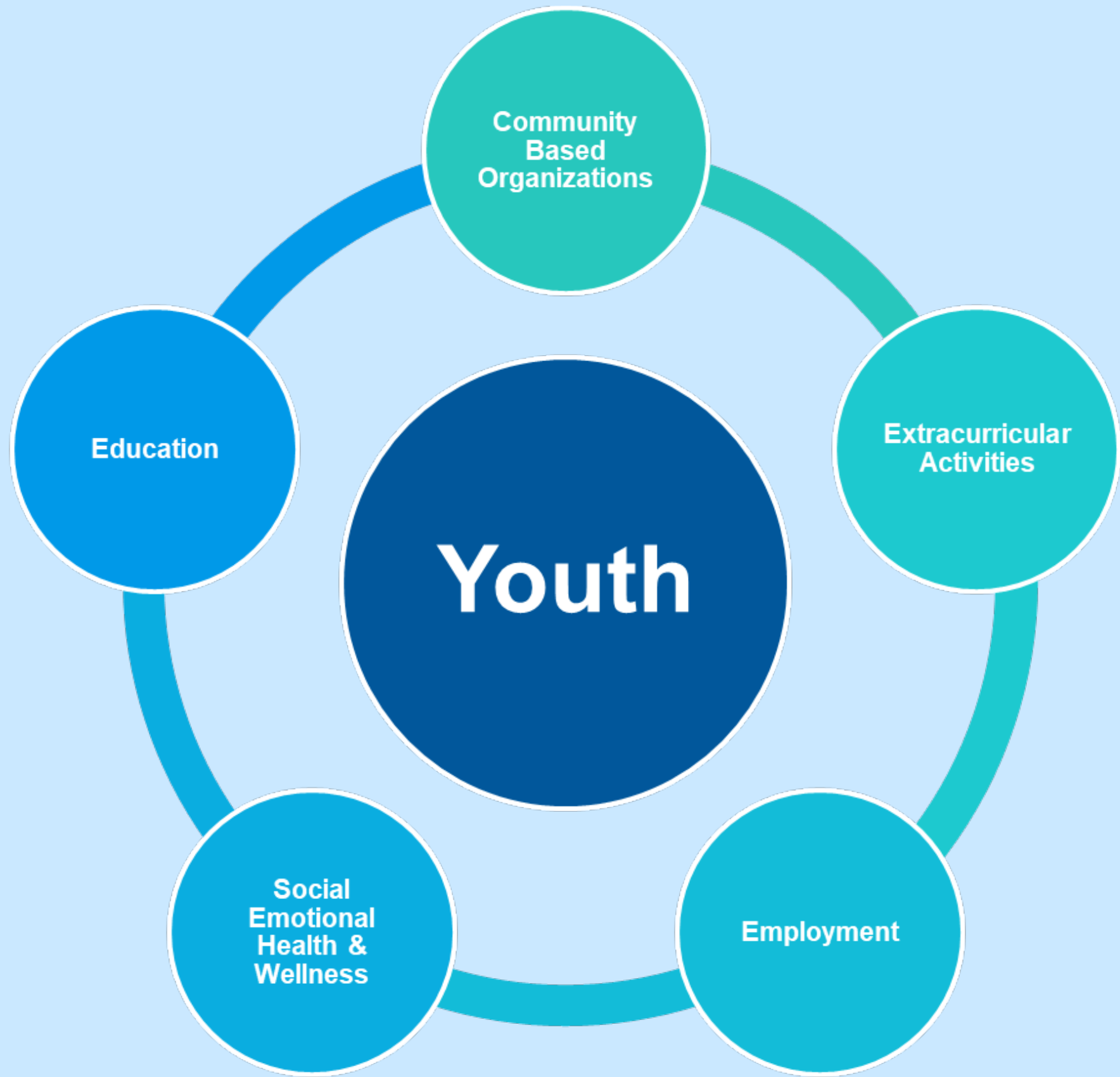
Youth arrested for lower-level violations are diverted -- steered away -- from “the system.”

TRADITIONAL PROCESSING

- FORMAL COURT APPEARANCE
- POTENTIAL INCARCERATION OR PROBATION
- COURT RECORD

JUVENILE HEARING BOARDS

- HEARING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- COMMUNITY SERVICE REFERRAL OR OTHER ASSIGNMENT
- NO COURT RECORD



**JUVENILE HEARING
BOARDS ARE
YOUTH-CENTERED**



Meet Sarah.

SARAH IS AN 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

SARAH WAS ARRESTED FOR A PHYSICAL ALTERCATION WITH ANOTHER STUDENT WHO HAD BEEN BULLYING HER.

Meet Sarah.

SARAH IS AN 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

~~SARAH WAS ARRESTED FOR A PHYSICAL ALTERCATION WITH ANOTHER STUDENT WHO HAD BEEN BULLYING HER.~~

SARAH WANTS TO BE A LAWYER AND LOVES SOFTBALL.





The Role of Community Linkages and Supports



TIDES FAMILY SERVICES

WE NEVER GIVE UP ON A KID... NEVER!

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Community Based Prevention with interventions including a combination of:
 - Counseling,
 - Mentoring,
 - Community services,
 - Educational supports,
 - Life skills and
 - Family involvement.
- Tides approaches work with youth from a systems perspective
- All of our programs incorporate restorative justice



DIVERSION PROGRAMS

- The goal is to address underlying causes of behavior and to rehabilitate and reduce the likelihood of reoffending
- Programs must recognize the unique needs of youth and families
- It can not be a one size fits all approach

DIVERSION PROGRAMS AT TIDES

Youth Transition Center (YTC) – Re-Entry Program

Helps youth to prepare for release from the RITS or meet the conditions of their probation

Emphasizing responsibility and prevention strategies to avoid re-entry into the Juvenile Justice System

Prior to funding cuts in 2012, YTC had capacity to serve as a Day Reporting Center that would allow for community supervision of pre adjudicated youth as an alternative to detention in the RITS

Additional investments into this program will provide a trauma informed community based supervision program for justice involved youth

PREVENTION PROGRAMS AT TIDES

Children's Mobile Crisis Response (CMCR)

A brief intervention model with the goal of stabilizing acute crisis situations while providing assessment and referrals to appropriate treatment providers

Master level clinicians and behavioral assistants will work to prevent unnecessary police involvement and/or out of home placement

Serving ages 2 to 21, youth and their families will remain open approximately 30 days in order to help them stabilize and make a connection to needed services

- 86% of the youth that received behavioral health services from CMCR that closed did not end up hospitalized or in a higher level of care.
- Tides is proud to say it has supported over 400 youth with crisis stabilization services since the program started in 2020.

DIVERSION PROGRAMS AT TIDES

Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

TFS has been a provider since 2017

Effective, short-term evidence-based family counseling service designed for 11-to-18-year-old-youth who are at risk or have been referred for behavioral or emotional problems

Works with a young person's entire family and extrafamilial influences to facilitate positive growth and development

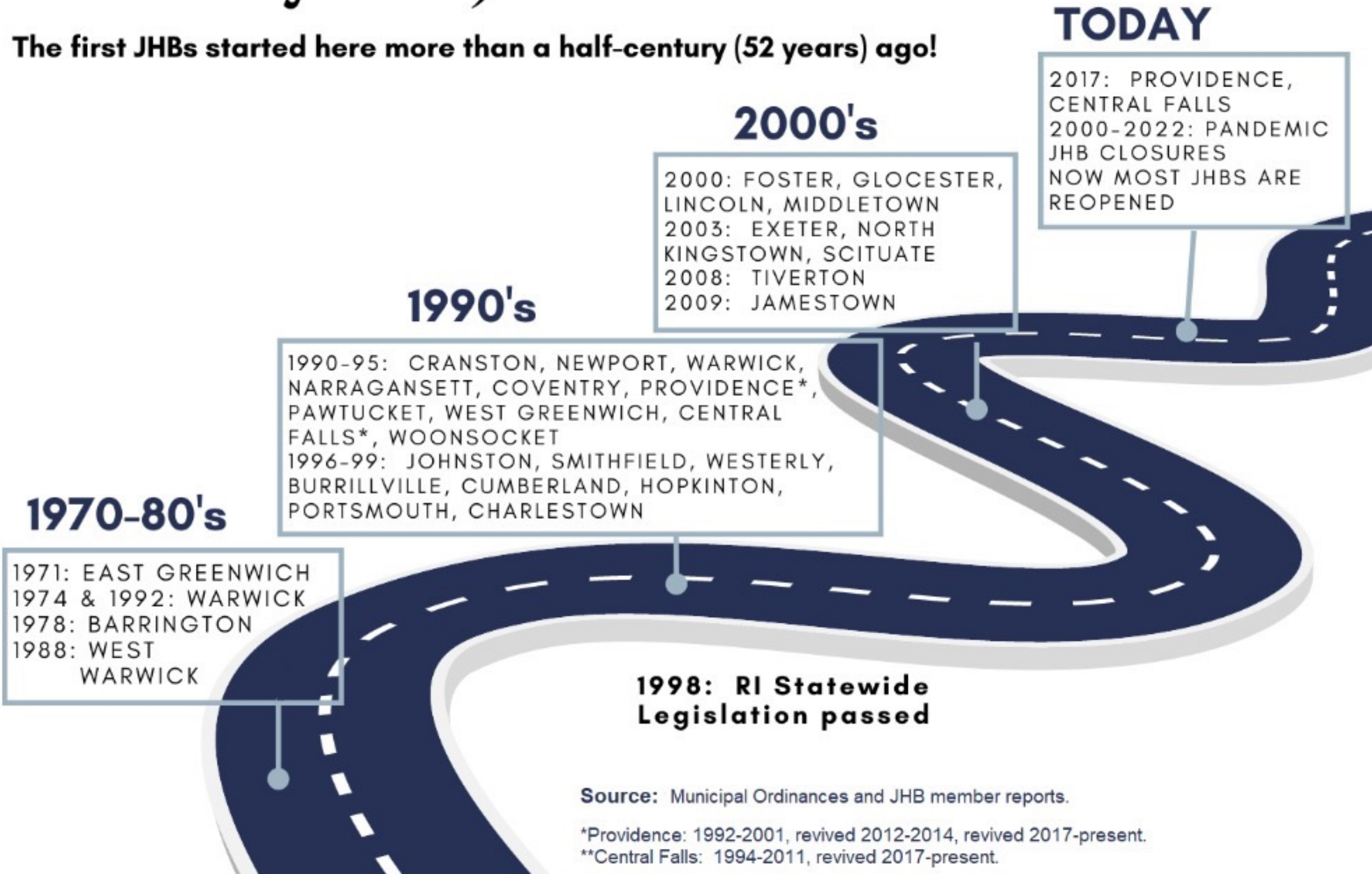
Consideration should be given to fund these specialty programs and avoid a one size fits all approach to providing evidence based services to more acute youth



Rhode Island Juvenile Hearing Boards: History and Recent Data

History of JHBs in RI

The first JHBs started here more than a half-century (52 years) ago!



Source: Municipal Ordinances and JHB member reports.

*Providence: 1992-2001, revived 2012-2014, revived 2017-present.

**Central Falls: 1994-2011, revived 2017-present.

2021 Data

(Dept Public Safety Grant Admin Ofc report)

Racial Equity

ON AVERAGE,

Black youth are

2.7X

than white youth



MORE
LIKELY TO BE
ARRESTED



AND

2.7X

MORE
LIKELY
TO GO TO
RITS

In 2019

ONLY HALF AS LIKELY TO GO BEFORE A **JHB.**

In 2021 this increased to 68%

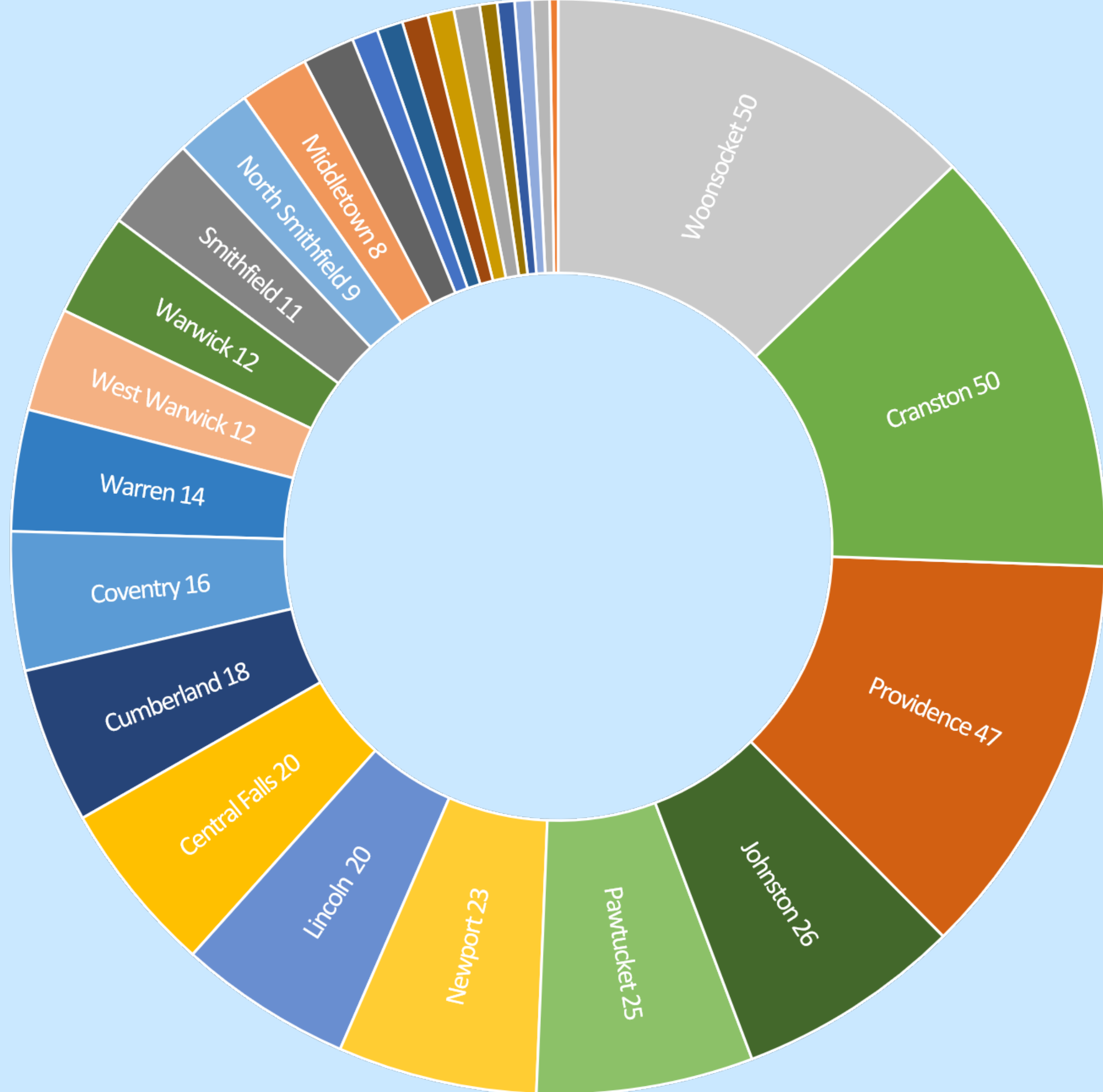
Rhode Island Juvenile Hearing Board Cases 2022

TOTAL CASES = 391
2019 (PRE-PANDEMIC) = 401

28 CITIES/TOWNS HAD ACTIVE JHBS
 Foster & Glocester JHB and Johnston & Smithfield
 JHB are shared boards

8 INACTIVE (NOT OPENED POST-PANDEMIC)
 Block Island, Charlestown, E Prov, Exeter,
 N Kingstown, N Prov, Scituate, Westerly

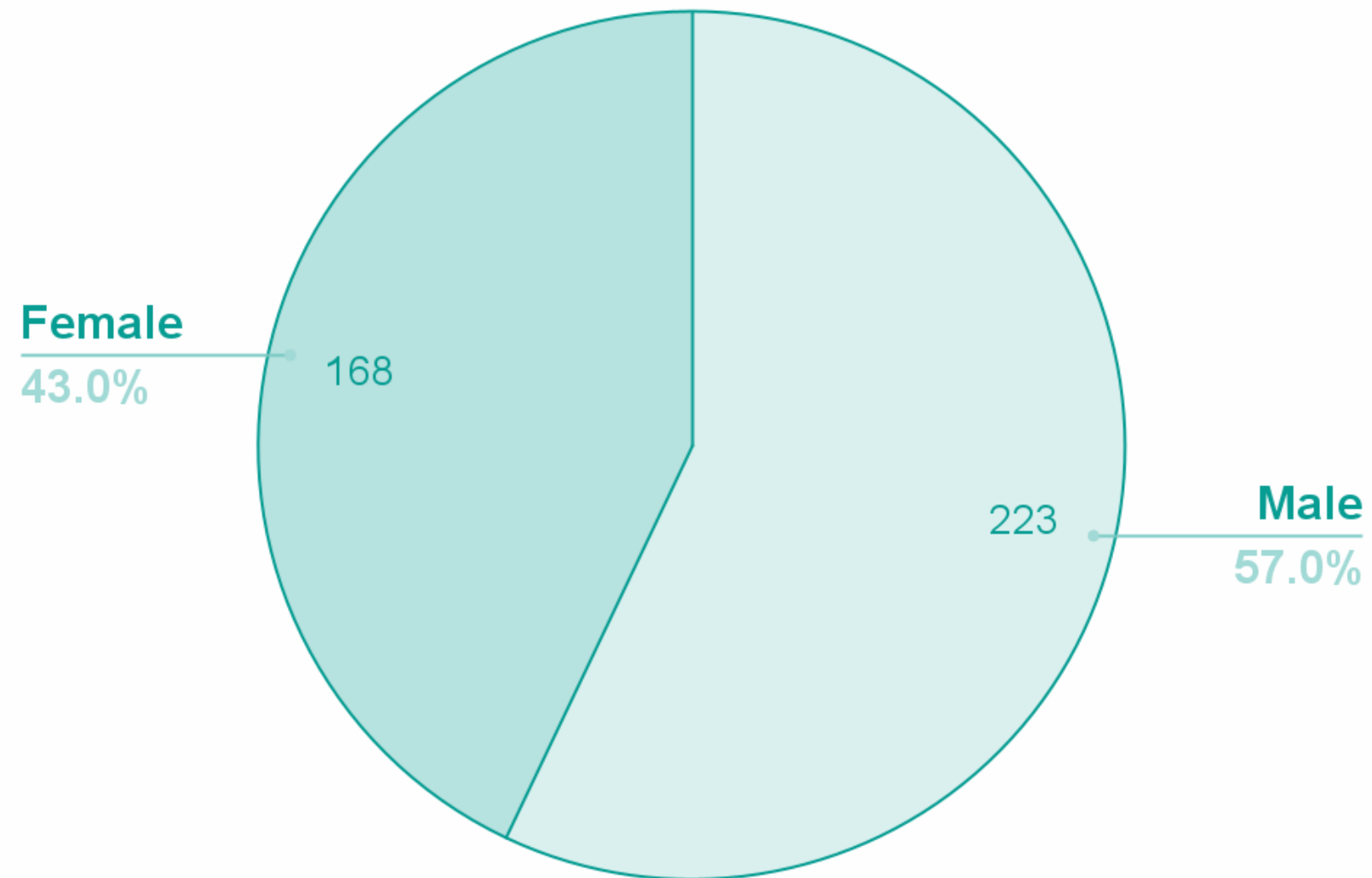
3 CITIES/TOWNS NEVER HAD A JHB
 Little Compton, Richmond, S Kingston



Rhode Island Juvenile Hearing Board Cases 2022

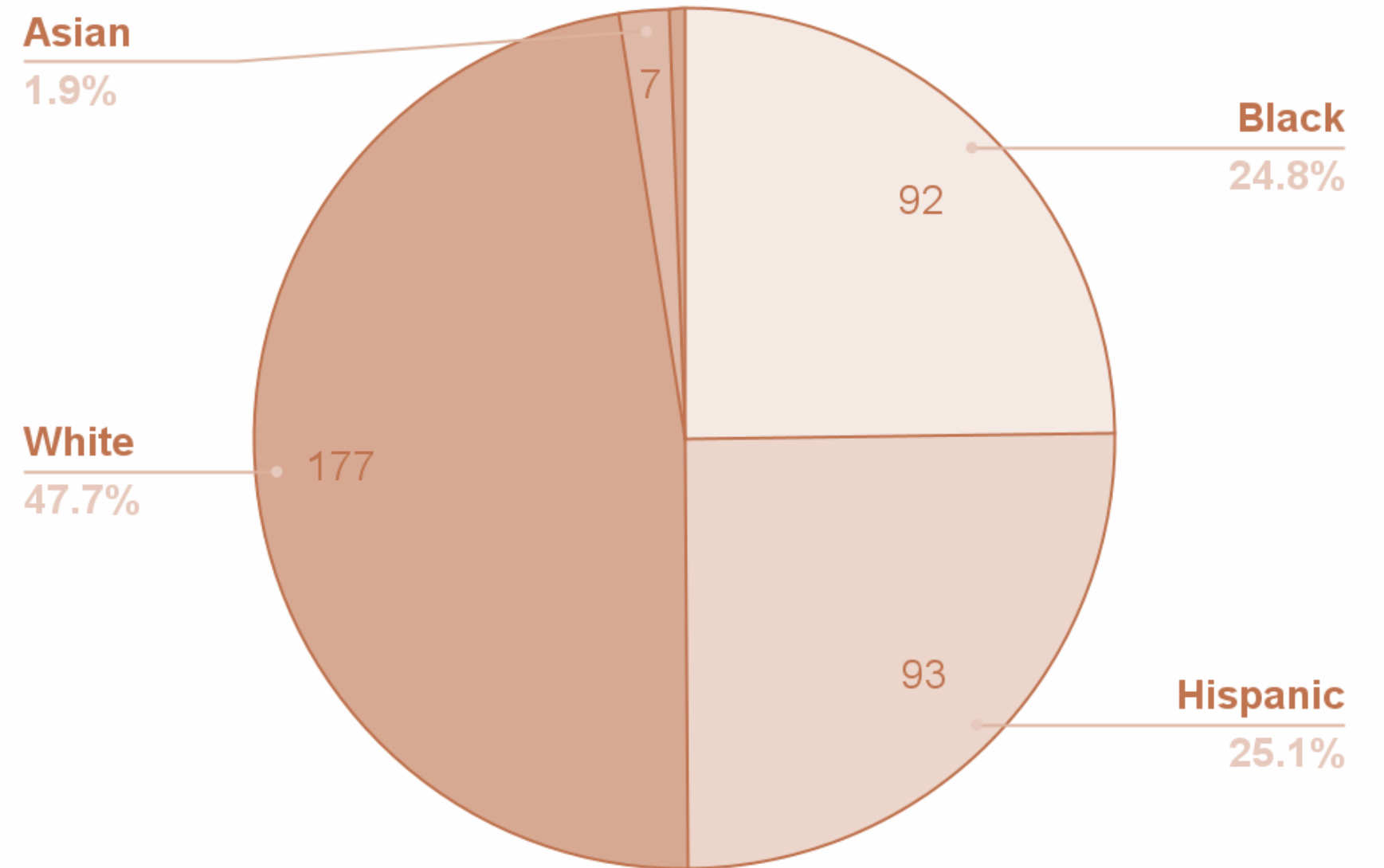
Data is collected from police departments by Family Court.

2022 JHB Cases by Sex



2019: 67% M, 33% F

2022 JHB Cases by Race



2019: W=62%, B=19%, H=16%, A=1%

Offenses seen at RI JHBs in 2022

Malicious Damage

6.3%

Status Offenses

0.9%

Other

10.0%

Drugs/Alcohol

6.1%

Disorderly Conduct

49.0%

Trespassing

2.7%

Simple Assault

17.0%

Shoplifting

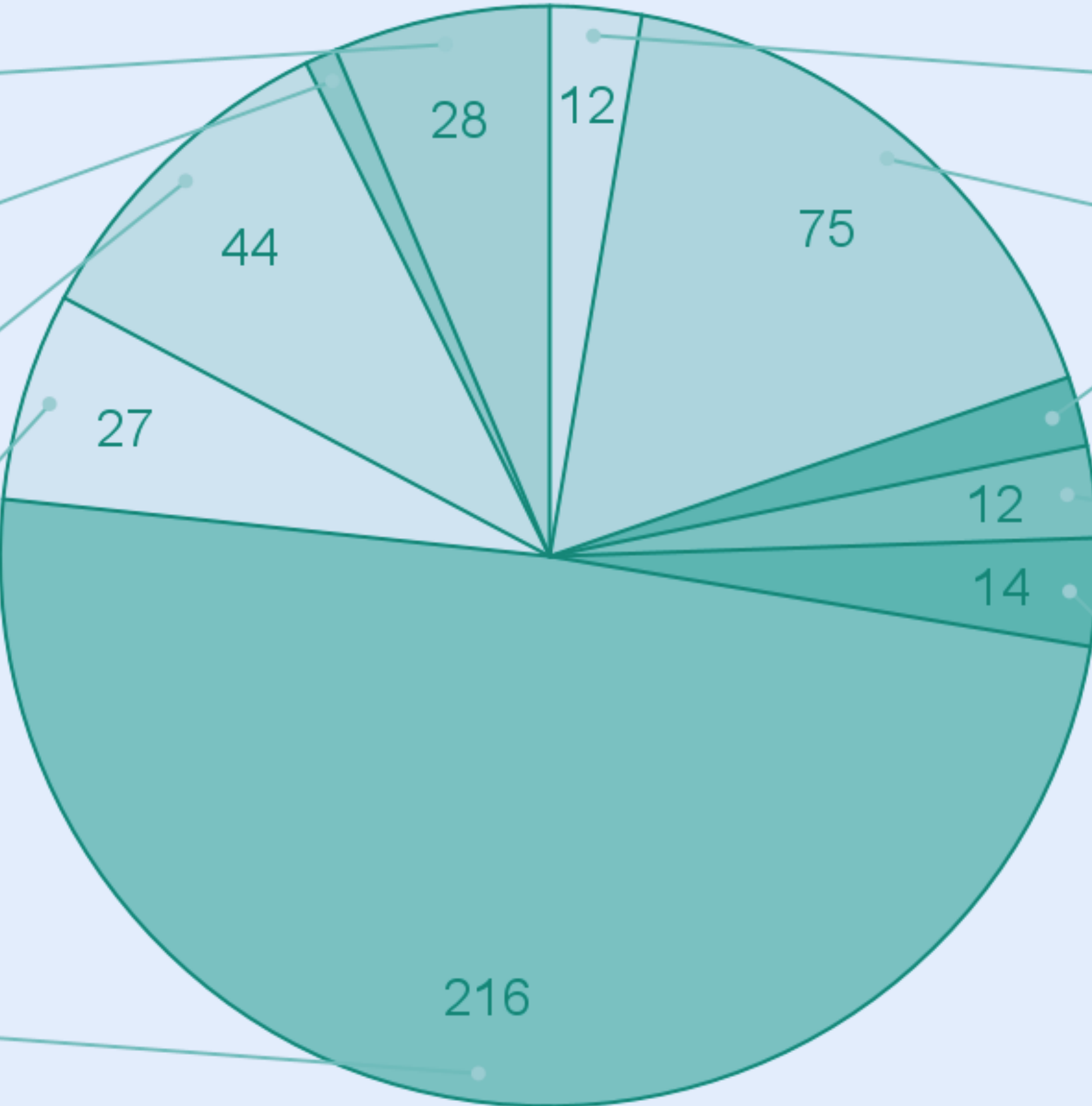
2.0%

Weapon Possession

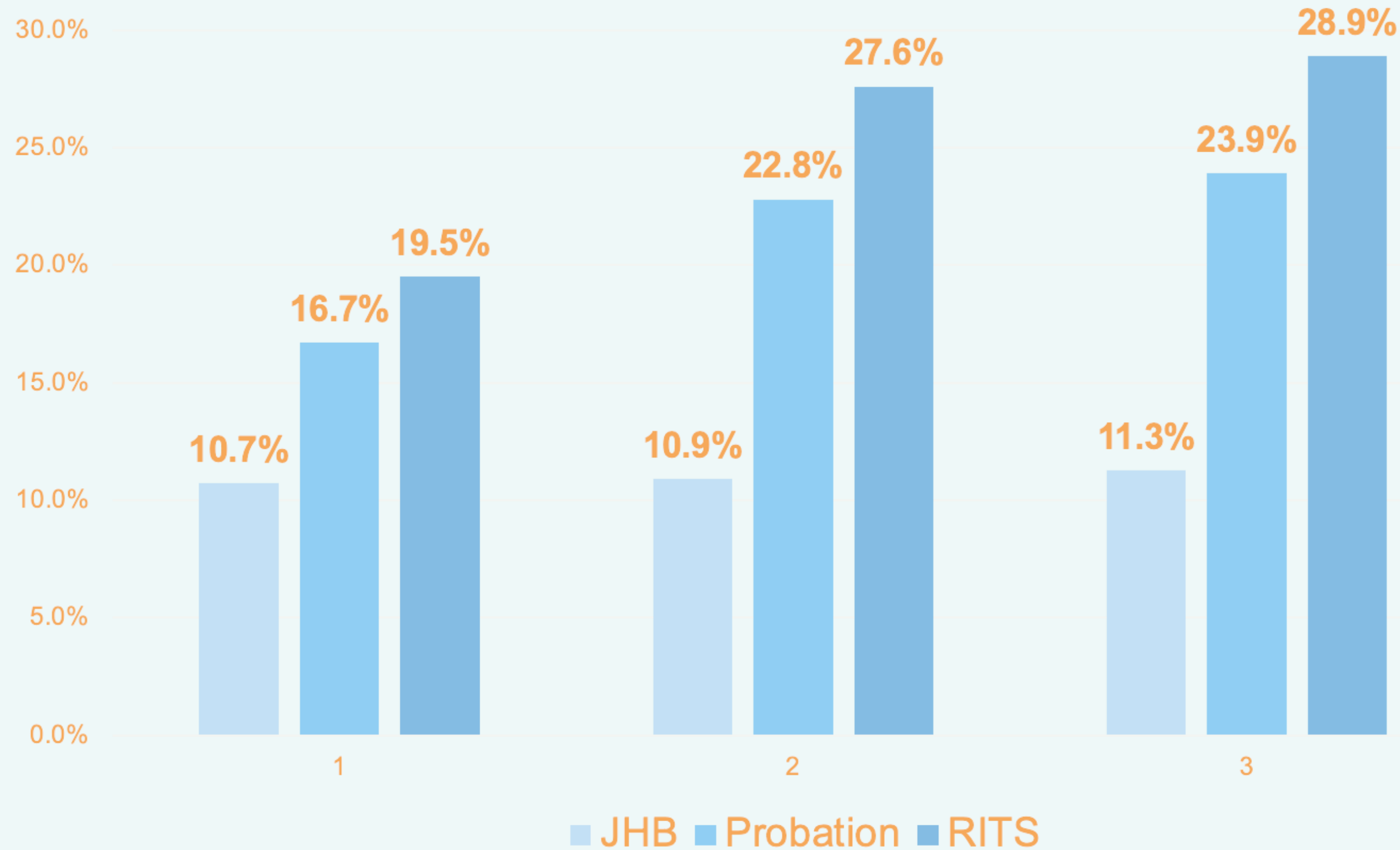
2.7%

Larceny/Stolen Goods

3.2%



3-Year Aggregate Rates: JHB Re-Arrest and Probation/RITS Recidivism



3-year Aggregate Rates

- **JHB Re-Arrest**
 - Years: 2022/2021/2020
 - Court JHB annual report completed by police departments
- **Probation & RITS Recidivism Study**
 - Years: 2020/2019/2018
 - DCYF 12/29/21 report

What do Juvenile Hearing Boards need to be successful?

Volunteer member recruitment, retention, and attendance

Administrative (coordinators, case managers) and community resources

Help with developing creative, effective, individualized sanctions

Help in getting mental/behavioral health supports for youth

Responses are from our Aug. 2023 survey of JHBs

Question and Answer...



Take Home Items

01 Not a government program
(Some supports by DCYF (FCCP, \$, etc.)

02 Grass Roots

03 Present in RI for 50 Years
(In 72% of cities/towns due to pandemic)

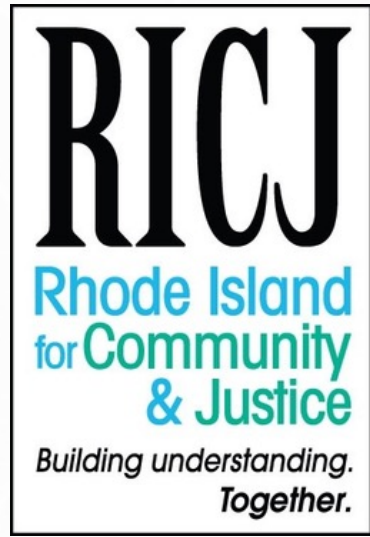
04 JHB's are a Tool
(Not a "be all - end all")

05 Takes a Community

06 Anyone Can Do It!
(Not a heavy expense)

RESOURCES

- Central Falls JHB Flyer:
<https://tinyurl.com/CF-JHB-Flyer>
- RI JHB Manual (table of contents with clickable links):
<https://tinyurl.com/RI-JHB-Manual-2010>
- Call on us!



Thank You



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION



TIDES FAMILY SERVICES
WE NEVER GIVE UP ON A KID... NEVER!



Thank You



Working for Youth Justice and Safety

ojjdp.ojp.gov