

# 2022

TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-TWO

## North Dakota Juvenile Court Annual Report



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# What is Juvenile Court?

Established in 1911 on the founding principal of rehabilitation, North Dakota's juvenile courts are a division of the District Courts and serve many vital purposes. The Court has jurisdiction over youth ages 10 to 18 who are referred to the Court on a report of delinquent behavior. The juvenile court also has jurisdiction over cases involving a Child in Need of Protection (formerly a deprived child) and cases regarding guardianship of a minor child.





# Mission Statement

The Juvenile Court protects the best interests of children and addresses the unique characteristics and needs of children that come before the court as a child in need of protection, and in juvenile delinquency matters. Following the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice, the mission of the North Dakota Juvenile Court is to promote public safety, hold juvenile offenders accountable, and increase the capacity of juveniles to contribute productively to their community. The courts empower victims, encourage community participation, and support parental responsibility.

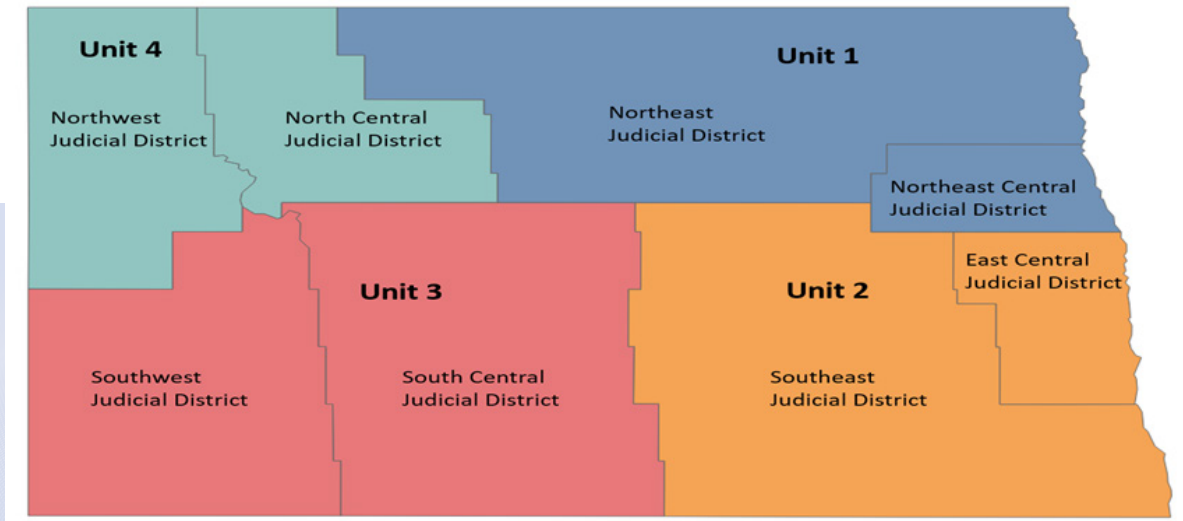
**REPAIRING HARM,  
REDUCING RISK  
AND CREATING  
OPPORTUNITIES**





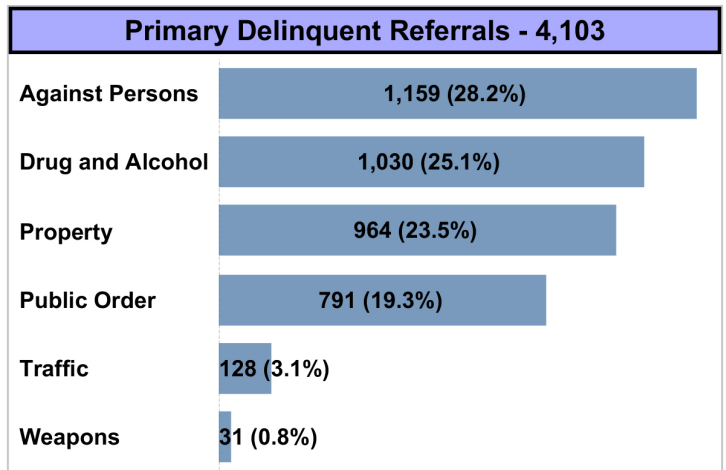
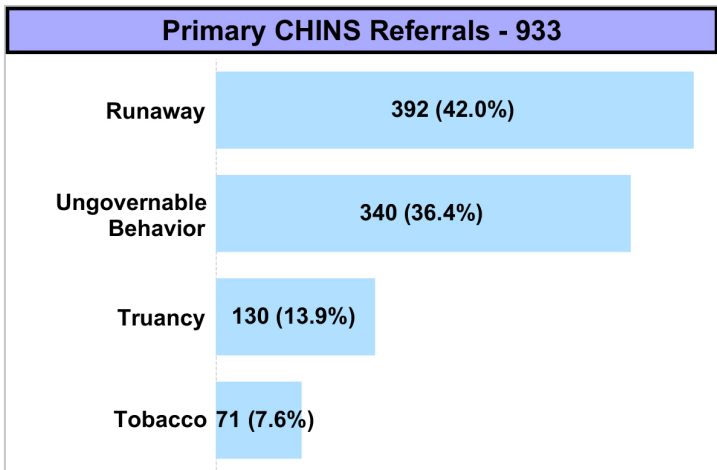
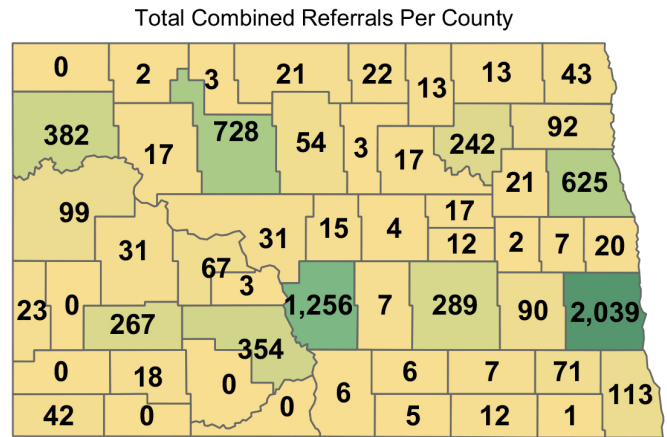
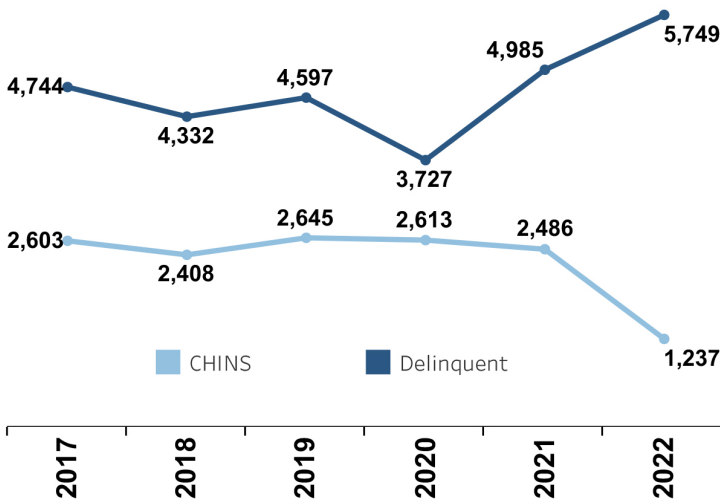
# Juvenile Court Structure

The juvenile court is structured within four administrative units and eight judicial districts.

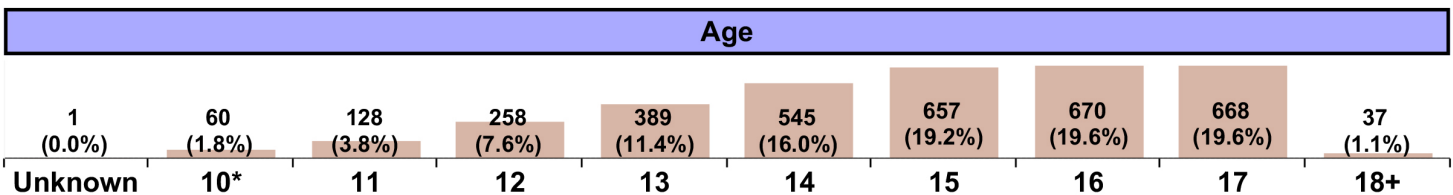
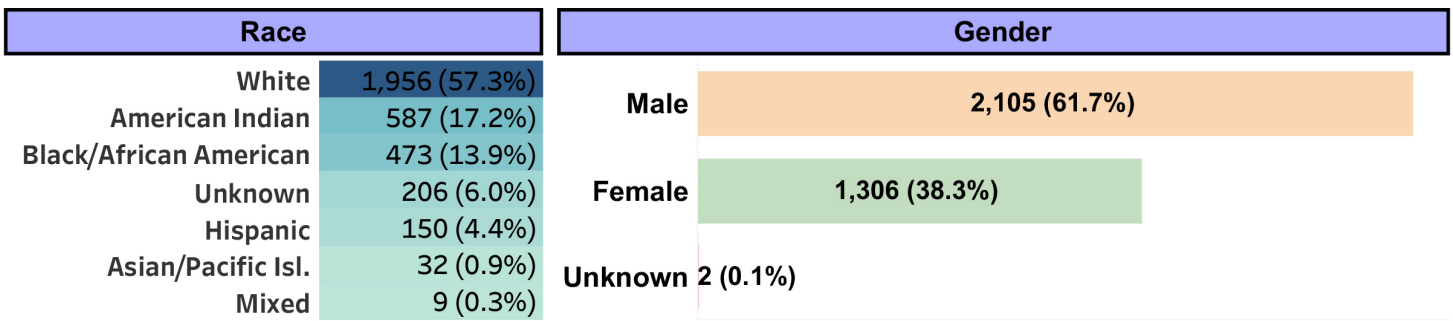


## North Dakota Juvenile Court 2022 Delinquent & Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Referrals Received

### Total Delinquent and CHINS Referrals



### Number of Youth Referred to Juvenile Court: 3,413



\* As of 7/1/2021, all MIP/MIC offenses are a delinquent act

\*10 includes those referrals for youth age 10 and under

\*18+ includes individuals over the age of 18 who were referred to juvenile court for alleged offenses committed as a minor.

# 2022 Delinquent and CHINS Referrals to Juvenile Court

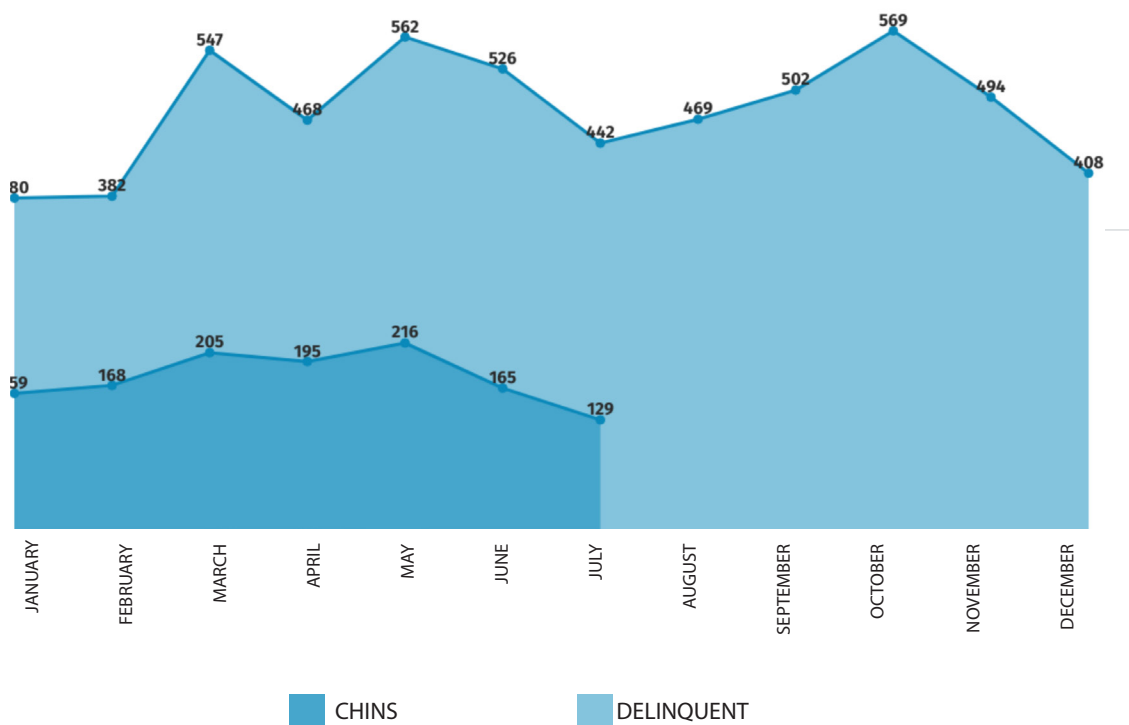
Referrals to the juvenile court for delinquent offenses and child in need of services (CHINS) behavior are received from law enforcement agencies, school administrators, and parents. A delinquent act is behavior that would be considered a crime if committed by an adult, while a CHINS referral is for behavior that is only subject to intervention due to the age of the person, such as truancy from school, running away from home, ungovernable behavior, and use or possession of tobacco products.

In 2022, total delinquency referrals to the North Dakota Juvenile Courts increased by 764 (13%). CHINS referrals to the North Dakota Juvenile Courts decreased from the previous year by 1,249 referrals (50%) to 1237. These changes are in part due to the Minor in Consumption and Minor in Possession (Alcohol) referrals moving from

the CHINS category to the Delinquent category on July 1, 2021. The CHINS decrease is also due to all CHINS referrals moving from the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Juvenile Court to the Human Service Zone on August 1, 2022.

Year	CHINS	Delinquent	Grand Total
2022	1,237	5,749	6,986
2021	2,486	4,985	7,471
2020	2,613	3,727	6,340
2019	2,645	4,597	7,242
2018	2,408	4,332	6,740
2017	2,603	4,744	7,347

The chart below reflects the number of CHINS and delinquent referrals in 2022 by month.





## REFERRAL BY SOURCE

Ninety-two percent of all referrals for delinquent and CHINS behaviors came from law enforcement. Other referral sources include schools and parents.

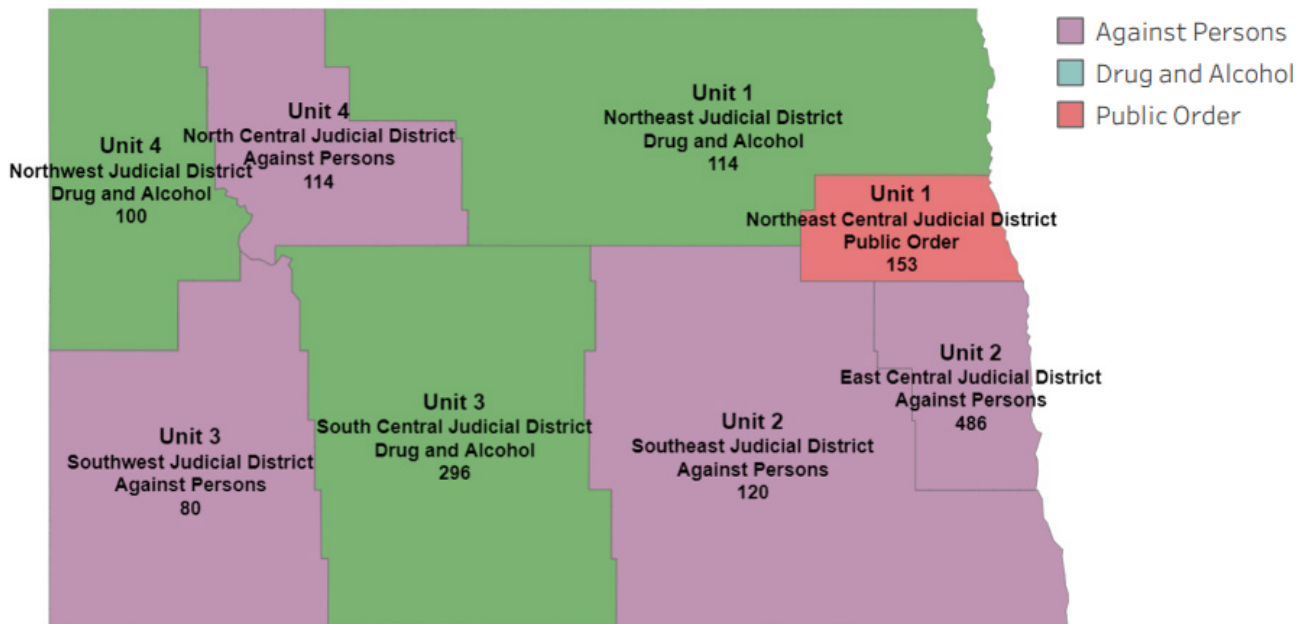
## REFERRALS BY CASE TYPE

Top 5 Primary Referral Offenses

CHINS	
Runaway	392 (42%)
Ungovernable Behavior	340 (36%)
Truancy	130 (14%)
Tobacco	71 (8%)

DELIQUENT	
Disorderly Conduct	464 (11%)
Simple Assault	409 (10%)
Possession of a Controlled Substance	270 (7%)
MIP/MIC-Infraction	345 (8%)
Theft of Property	243 (6%)

MOST COMMON REFERRAL TYPE BY COURT JUDICIAL DISTRICT





# Referral Types

## **AGAINST PERSON OFFENSES**

All assaults, menacing, harassment, terrorizing, gross sexual imposition, robbery

## **PROPERTY OFFENSES**

Shoplifting, burglary, criminal mischief/vandalism, criminal trespass, all thefts,

## **PUBLIC ORDER**

Disorderly conduct, disturbance of a public school, failure to appear, resisting arrest

## **CHINS**

Curfew, runaway, tobacco, truancy, ungovernable behavior, minor in possession/consumption of alcohol

Note: minor in possession and minor in consumption moved to the drug and alcohol category on July 1, 2021

## **TRAFFIC**

Driving under suspension, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident

## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL**

Any drug or alcohol related offense





# Referral by Location of Offense

In 2022, 51% of all delinquent and CHINS referrals were the result of law violations or behaviors by youth that occurred out in the community such as stores, streets, parks etc., 22% occurred in the home, 23% were from acts reported to have occurred at a school building or grounds during the school day, and 4% occurred at other locations, most commonly at youth residential facilities.

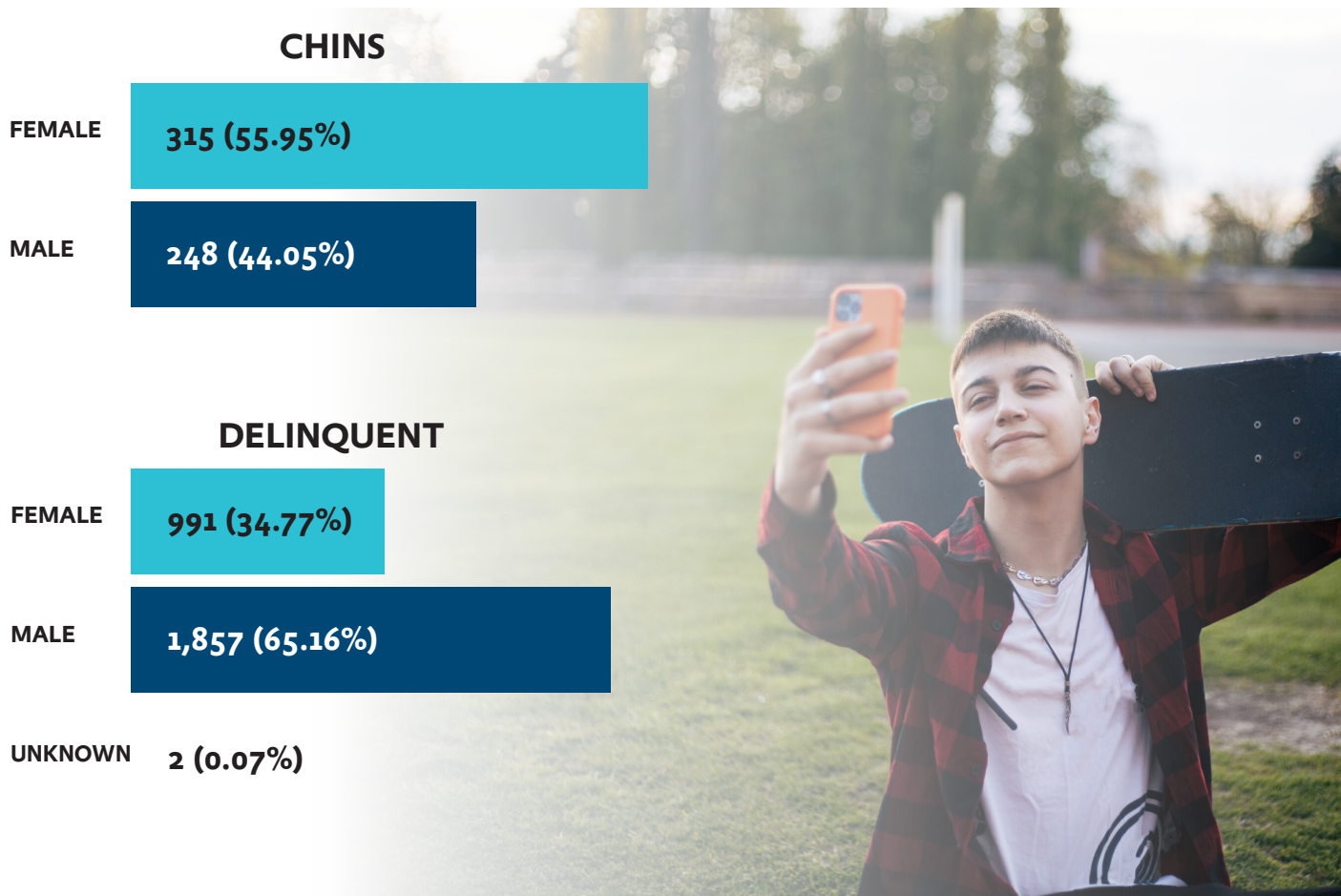
## ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

### AGE

The most common age of youth referred to the juvenile courts for delinquent or CHINS behavior in 2022 was 16 years of age. Juveniles age 13 and younger accounted for 25% of all referrals to the courts. For those youth 13 and under 25% of the referrals were CHINS and 75% were delinquent.

### GENDER

In 2022, males committed 61% of delinquent and CHINS acts referred to the juvenile courts, while females accounted for 39% of referrals. This is further broken down by CHINS and Delinquent referrals below:





# Race

North Dakota school enrollment for grades 5 through 12 shows the white population remained the largest race or ethnicity group in North Dakota at 76% of the population. The chart below depicts the breakout for all race or ethnic groups:

WHITE	AMERICAN INDIAN	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC	ASIAN/PAC ISL.	GRAND TOTAL
75.8%	10.8%	5.8%	5.3%	2.3%	100%

The American Indian and Black/African American population are overrepresented in the number of referrals sent to the juvenile court. Total delinquent and CHINS referrals for the American Indian populations were 17% of the overall total while they are only 11% of the general population. Black/African Americans were 14% of the overall referral totals while only 6% of the total population.



# Delinquency by Primary Offense Type

The most common primary offense types were drug and alcohol offenses (27%) and offenses against persons (27%), followed by property offenses (23%), public order (19%), traffic offenses (3%) and weapons offenses (1%).

## DELINQUENCY BY PRIMARY OFFENSE TYPE - RACE

	Against Persons	Drug and Alcohol	Property	Public Order	Traffic	Weapons
White	26%	31%	22%	17%	3%	1%
American Indian	25%	29%	24%	17%	4%	1%
Black/African American	30%	13%	28%	25%	3%	1%
Hispanic	31%	27%	20%	17%	4%	0%
Asian/Pacific Isl.	27%	30%	23%	18%	0%	2%
Mixed	44%	11%	17%	28%	0%	0%
Unknown	27%	29%	19%	19%	5%	2%

## CHINS by Primary Offense Type - Race

	Ungovernable Behavior	Runaway	Truancy	Tobacco
White	46%	37%	9%	8%
American Indian	27%	58%	12%	4%
Black/African American	35%	47%	11%	7%
Hispanic	29%	39%	22%	10%
Asian/Pacific Isl.	11%	44%	33%	11%
Mixed	33%	0%	33%	33%
Unknown	23%	45%	24%	7%

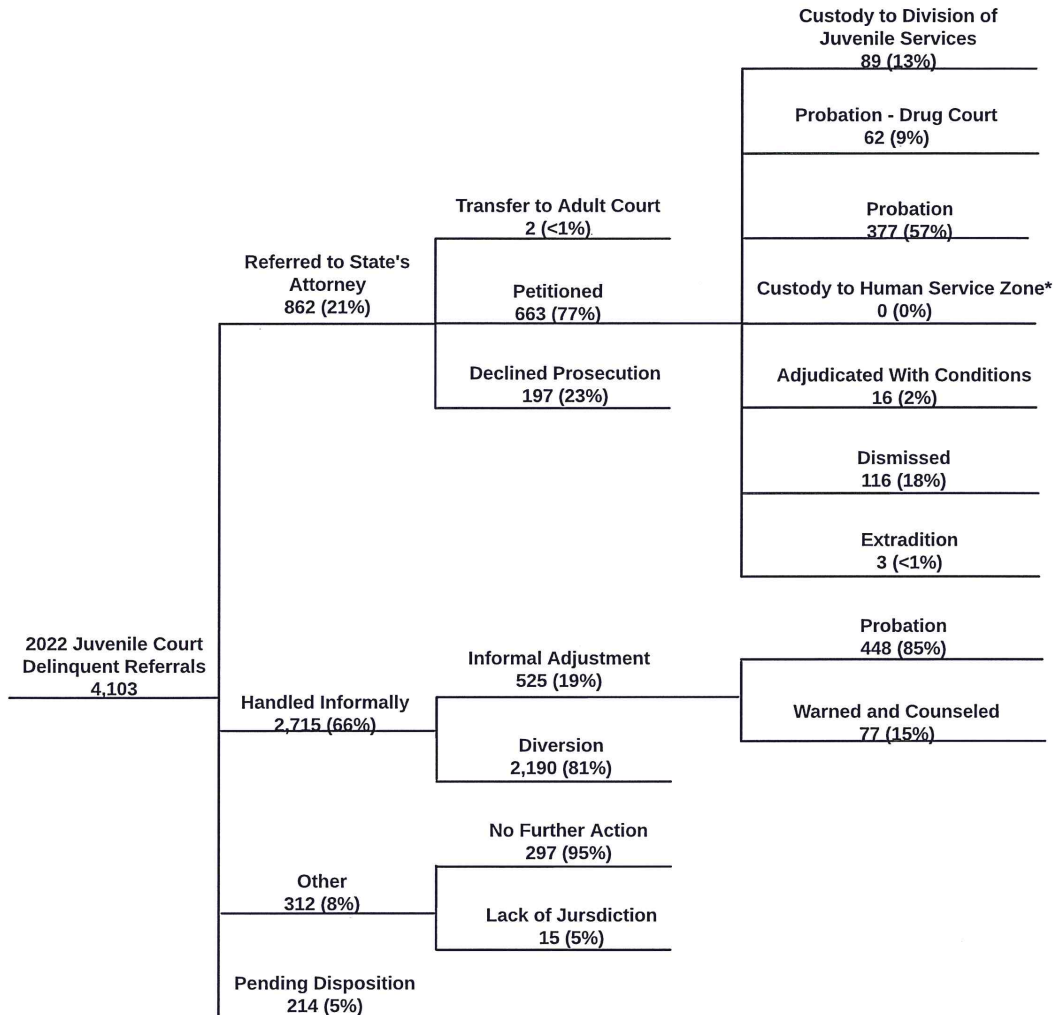
# Outcome of Juvenile Delinquent and CHINS Offenses

## PROCESSING OF DELINQUENCY AND CHINS CASES

Delinquency Dispositions: North Dakota law requires that dispositions be individualized based on the outcome of the youth’s risk and needs assessment and include steps to repair harm caused to the victim, treat and rehabilitate the youth, and ensure the safety of the community. The law requires that each youth in a formal delinquency petition receive a pre-dispositional assessment, which must include a risk and needs assessment. This is to ensure that each disposition is targeting specifically the delinquency or crime producing behaviors. Commitment of a youth to the Division of Juvenile Services is only considered as a last resort, when all other community

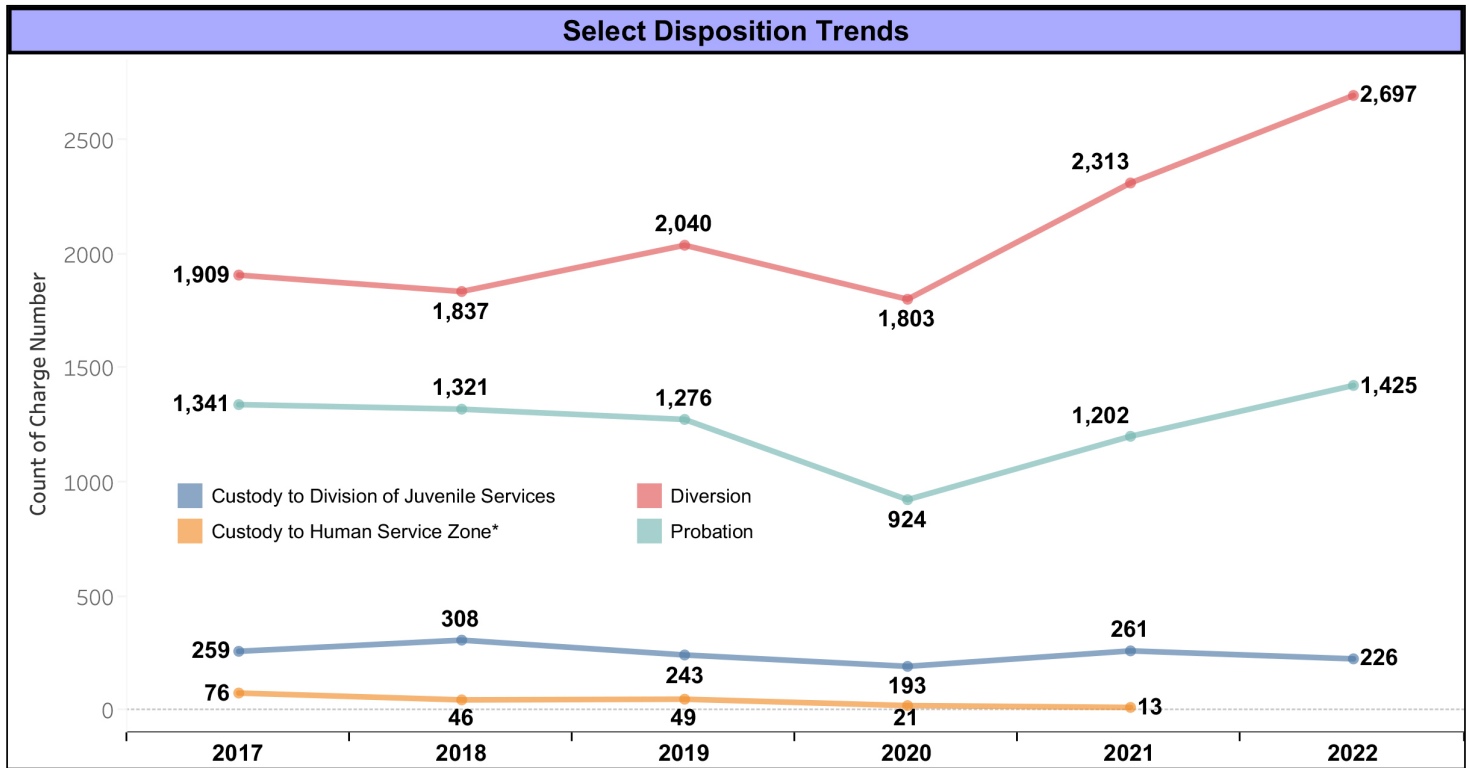
treatment options have been exhausted, or when public safety requires such an outcome. Transfer to adult court is rare, and can be done only through a voluntary request by the youth or by following the process under NDCC 27-20.4.

CHINS Dispositions: CHINS behavior referrals are diverted to appropriate services. Diversion can take place via letter, phone call, or meeting with juvenile court staff. The important task for juvenile court intake officers is to connect CHINS youth and families to appropriate programs in their community. Directive skill-based teaching can be delivered in short visits with youth with repeat CHINS referrals or in communities lacking services.

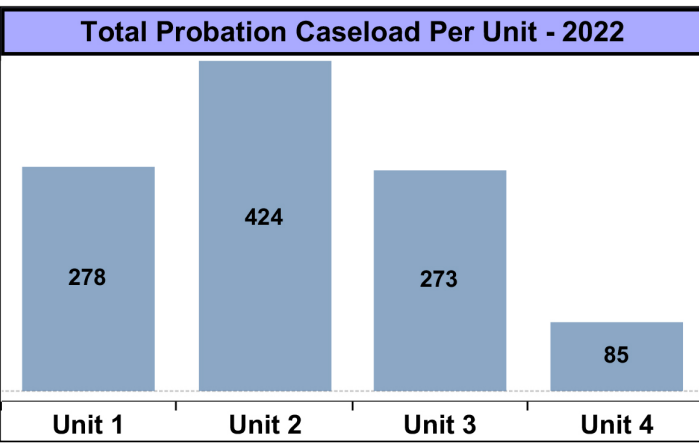
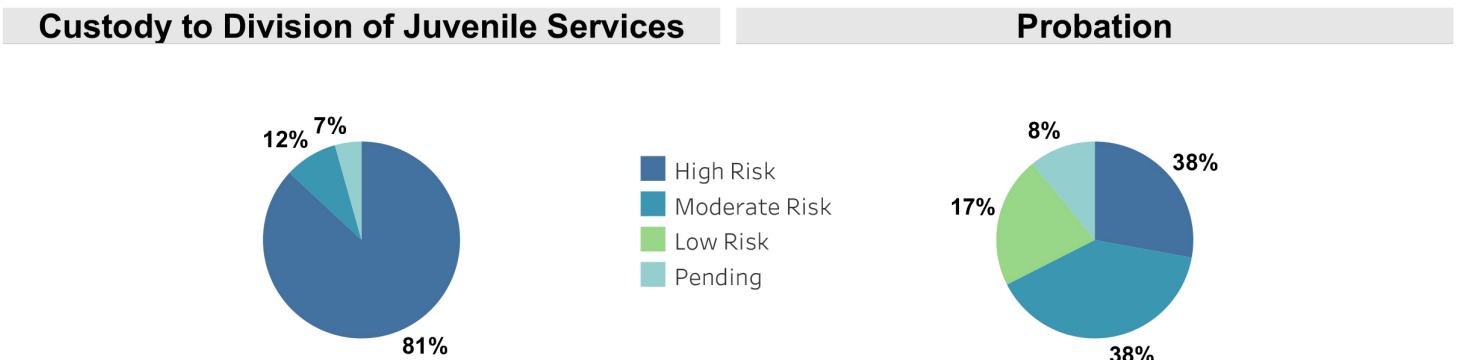




### North Dakota Juvenile Court: Dispositions and Supervision Caseload of Delinquent Referrals



#### YASI\* Risk Level By Supervision Type



#### Restorative Justice

- 575.5 hours of community service completed in 2022
- 226 youth and 161 victims served through Restorative Conferencing
- 175 youth attended a Victim Empathy Seminar
- \$225,537 collected in restitution

\*North Dakota Juvenile Court uses the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) for risk and needs of youth  
 \*As of 7/1/2021, a youth can no longer be placed with Human Service Zone for a delinquent referral  
 NOTE: As of 1/20/2022, there were 151 delinquent referrals pending disposition

# Screening and Programming

## 2022 TRAUMA SCREENING (TSSCA) SUMMARY

The goal of trauma screening is to identify youth who may have emotional, behavioral, learning, or relationship difficulties due to traumatic stress reactions and who may need further trauma assessment. Screenings occur as early as possible, often at the first meeting or at minimum within the first 30 days of supervision. By law, a screen is also administered upon admission to secure detention and the results filed with the court.

Score of 0 to 5	409	Indicates some level of trauma-related symptomatology
Score of 6 or higher	75	Indicates moderate to severe traumatic stress symptomatology
<b>Total Screens Performed</b>	<b>484</b>	

## YOUTH ASSESSMENT AND SCREENING INVENTORY (YASI)

North Dakota juvenile court officers use the validated Youth Assessment and Screening Inventory (YASI) to gauge a range of risk, needs, and strengths associated with delinquent behavior in adolescents to predict recidivism and effectively case manage youth assigned to juvenile court supervision.

### YASI PRE-SCREENS

The YASI Pre-Screen is primarily used for risk classification, estimating an individual’s likelihood to be referred again to the juvenile court for a delinquent referral. The pre-screen is administered by juvenile court officers at diversion meetings, informal adjustment conferences, or as part of a predisposition assessment during the formal court process.

### YASI FULL SCREENS

The YASI Full Screen is completed on youth who score moderate or high risk on the pre-screen. It gives greater depth to provide a more detailed needs assessment for prioritizing treatment goals and is used to guide pretrial recommendations and create comprehensive probation plans.

### REASSESSMENTS

YASI reassessments are conducted every three months while a youth is on probation, supervision, or whenever services are adjusted. A final assessment is completed at case closure.

Prescreen **752**

Full Assessment **524**

Reassessment **713**

**Total 1,989**

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

To support behavior change, juvenile court officers utilize the evidenced-based Carey Guides, Tools on Devices, and The Change Companies journals with youth on probation. The assignments completed and discussed reinforce the skills and attitudes modeled and supported by the assigned court officer. Workbooks and assignments are selected based on the individual needs of each youth.

Juvenile Court Officers also utilize motivational interviewing and Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). This means that time spent with youth on probation have specific goals based on that youth’s individualized case plan. Structured learning takes place at each visit to a home, school, or juvenile court office. Positive behaviors are modeled and reinforced while negative behaviors are addressed through disapproval and concrete lessons on how to avoid risky, anti-social behaviors. Incentives and graduated sanctions are used to respond to youth behaviors.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSING BEHAVIORS COGNITIVE CLASS**

In 2022, the juvenile court began offering a cognitive based class for adolescents referred for drug or alcohol referrals. This program is a collaboration of the juvenile court staff across the state and is available to youth in person at unit juvenile court offices or via Zoom. Since June of 2022, 52 youth were referred to the program and 44 youth successfully completed the program, two youth withdrew from the class to seek a chemical dependency evaluation due to additional charges, and 6 youth did not complete the program. This program is free of charge and utilizes an evidenced-based curriculum.

**DELINQUENCY PROBATION CASE MANAGEMENT**

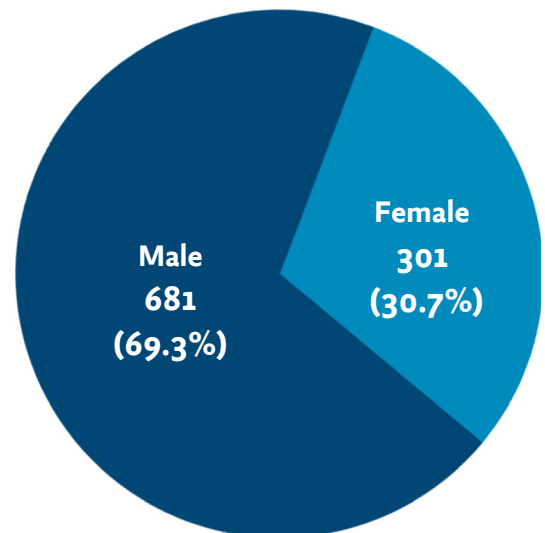
Juvenile probation case management seeks to improve youth behavior and by targeting responses to the highest priority areas of each youth risk and needs. Juvenile court officers play an important role in ameliorating the risk for reoffending, thereby improving public safety while simultaneously increasing the chances that youth will develop improved cognitive behavior skills and attitudes that will interrupt any trajectory into adult criminality.

Juvenile Court Officers were trained in 2022 in Growth Focused Case Management and have adopted this helpful process to guide youth towards a successful vocation. Youth are encouraged to explore vocational goals and interests while on probation. Court officers assist youth in exploring future academic or vocational career paths as a part of their time spent on probation. Teaching skills and reinforcing a positive future path for each youth is critical to the mission of deterring future delinquent behavior.

In 2022, the 1,063 distinct probations on the statewide caseload were made of 987 unique youth. This number includes informal adjustment and formal adjudication cases.

Below are basic demographic information of those individuals:

RACE	% OF TOTAL PROBATIONS
WHITE	57%
AMERICAN INDIAN	18%
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	15%
UNKNOWN	4%
HISPANIC	4%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISL.	1%
MIXED	<1%

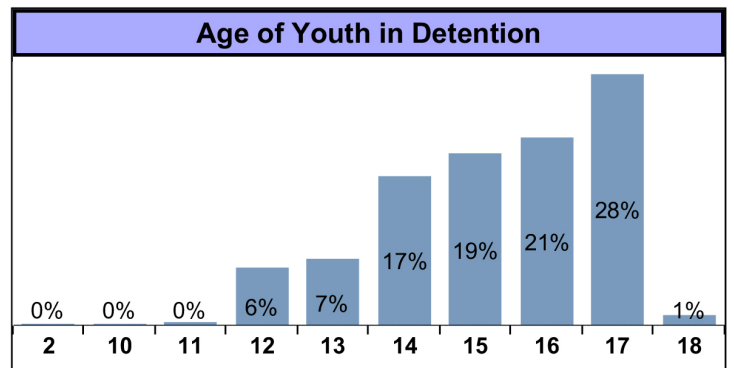
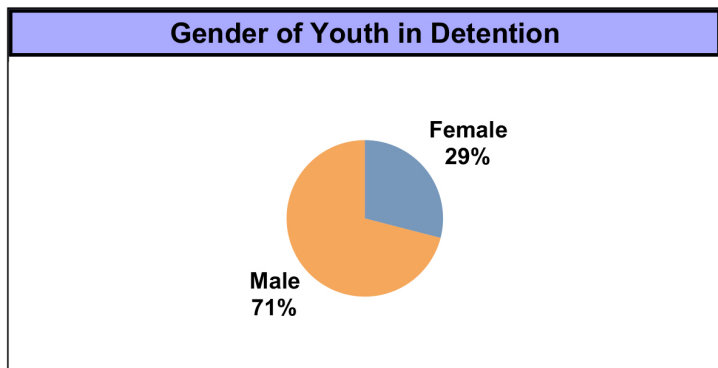
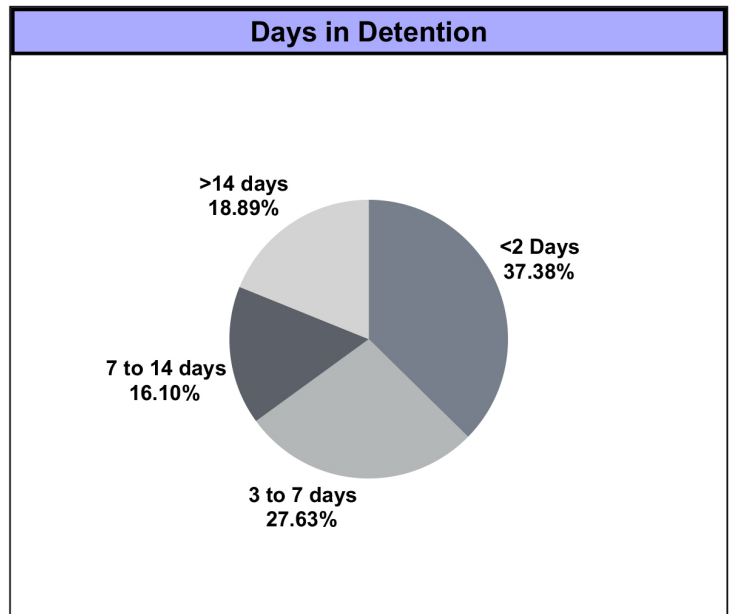
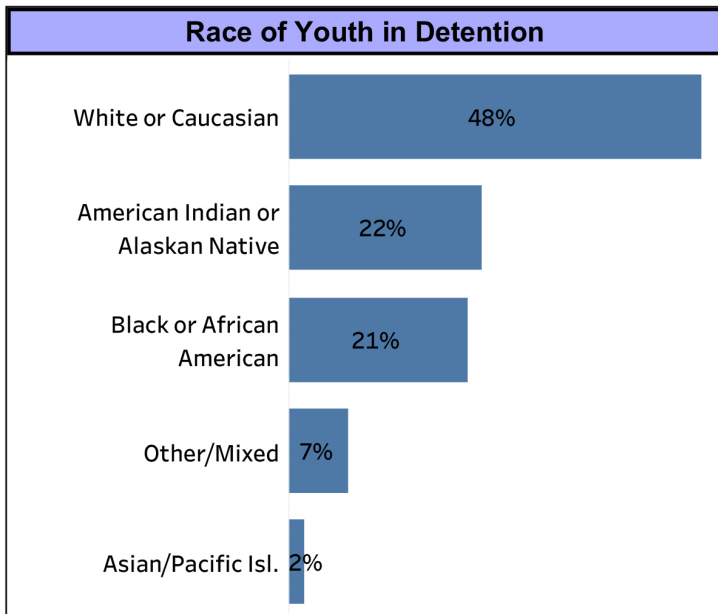
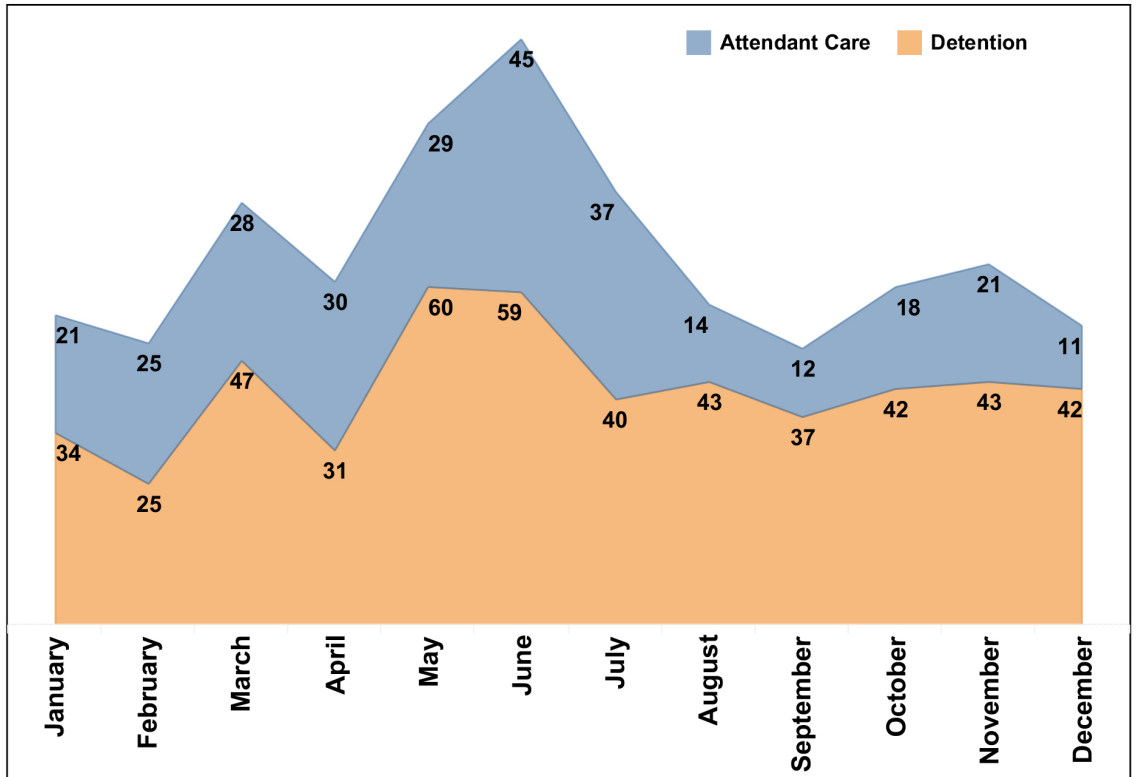




### North Dakota Juvenile Court 2022 Juvenile Detention and Attendant Care Admissions

<b>Attendant Care</b>	Unit 1	70 (20%)
	Unit 2	83 (23%)
	Unit 3	127 (36%)
	Unit 4	74 (21%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>354 (100%)</b>

<b>Detention</b>	Unit 1	87 (17%)
	Unit 2	245 (49%)
	Unit 3	100 (20%)
	Unit 4	71 (14%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>503 (100%)</b>



# Tribal Juvenile Services Cooperative Agreements

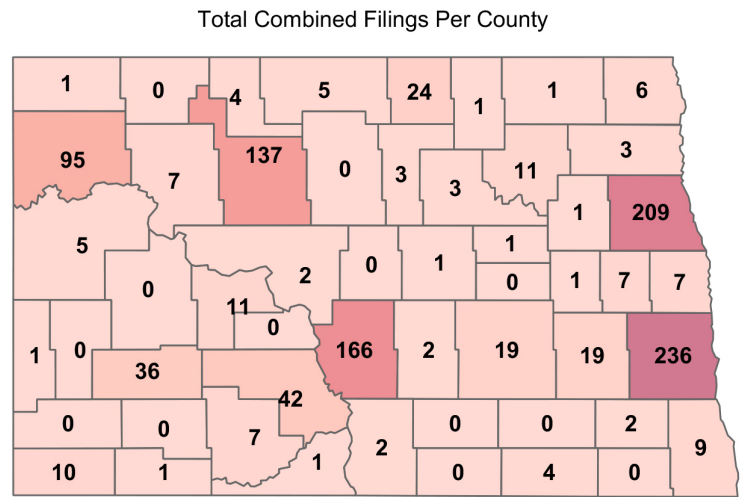
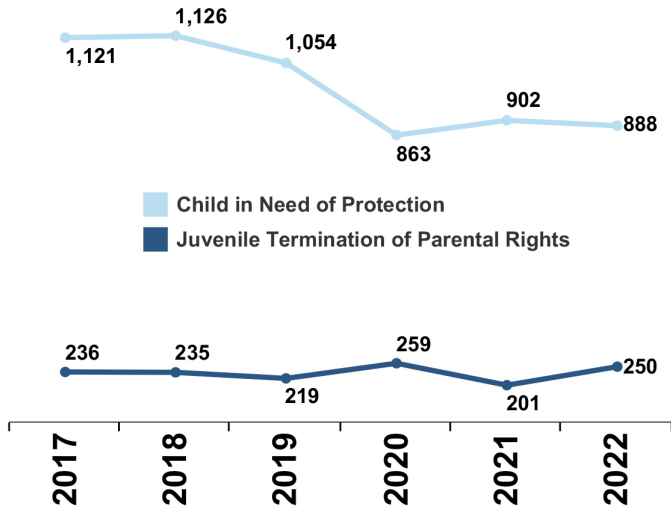
N.D.C.C. 27-20.4-17 allows state and tribal entities to enter into agreements to deliver services to youth under Tribal Court jurisdiction. Memorandums of understanding are currently in place with Spirit Lake Tribal Court and the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court. The MOUs allow for the sharing of information, resources, and data collection to address the needs of delinquent youth under the jurisdictions of the Tribal Courts. The North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, The Division of Juvenile Service (Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation), and the North Dakota Court System (Juvenile Court) are parties to the agreements.

The multi-disciplinary team with the Spirit Lake Nation began meeting in February 2020 and twenty-six (26) youth have been served since that time. The agreement with the Turtle Mountain Band was signed in 2022. The multi-disciplinary team was recently established and will begin staffing cases soon.



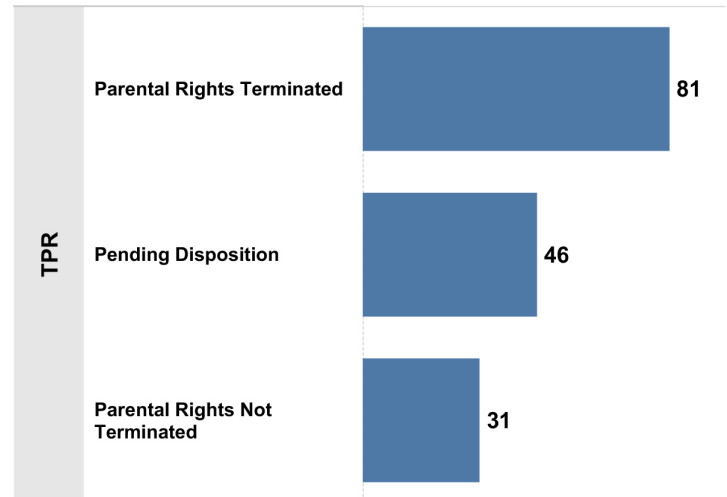
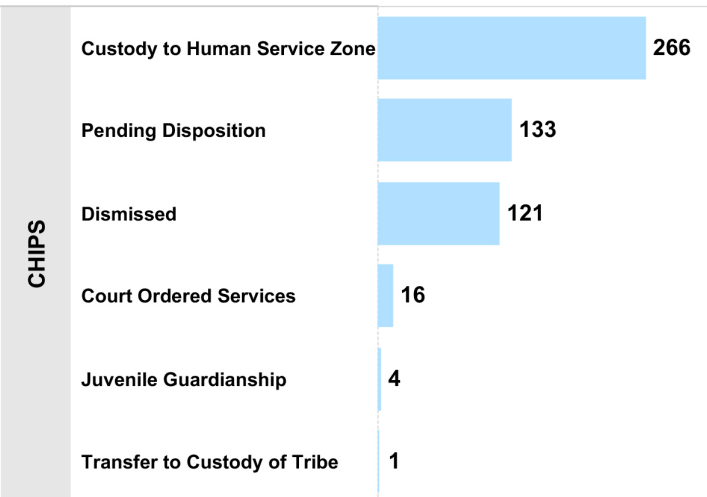
### North Dakota Juvenile Court 2022 Child in Need of Protection (CHIPS) and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)

#### Total CHIPS and TPR Case Filings

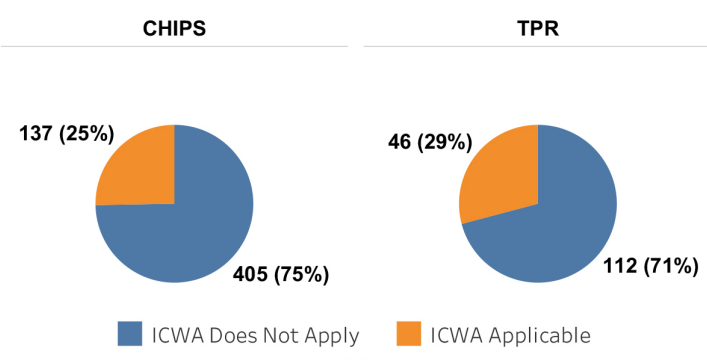


#### Individual Case Filings Were Comprised of 700 Families (542 CHIPS, 158 TPR)

#### Disposition of CHIPS and TPR Cases Filed in 2022



#### Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)



#### Time From TPR Petition to Final Order (avg. days)

Unit 1	115	Unit 3	130
Unit 2	115	Unit 4	87

#### Respondents Represented by Attorney

Child in Need of Protection: **63%**  
Termination of Parental Rights: **61%**

\*CHIPS cases filed in 2022 that directly resulted in Juvenile Guardianship filings



# Child in Need of Protection/ Termination of **Parental Rights**

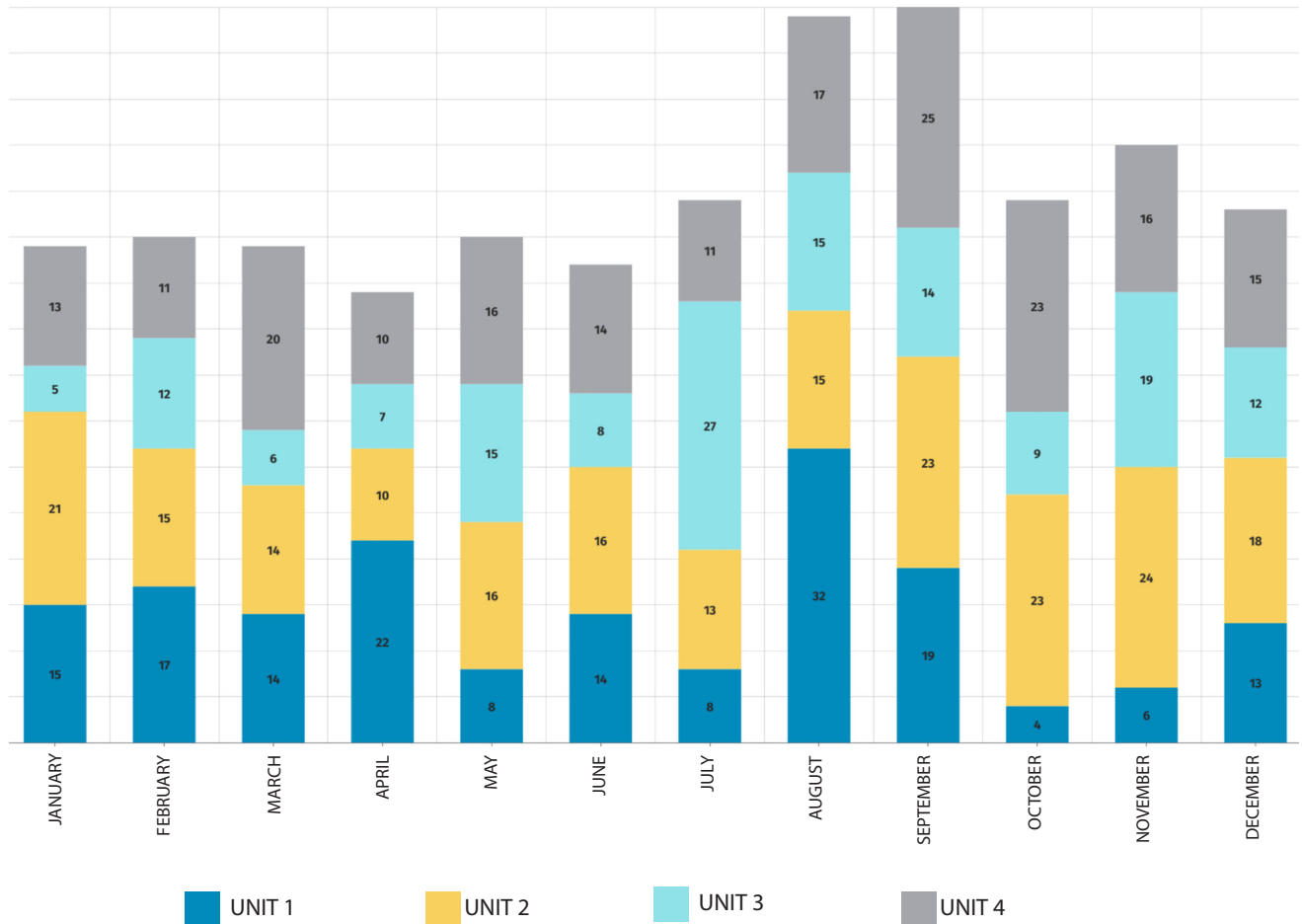
## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTS RECEIVED BY COURT

In 2022, the human service zones reported 769 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect to the juvenile court as required by NDCC 50-25.1-05.2. In these cases, no action is requested from the court.

## EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE CUSTODY ORDERS

In order to provide for child safety and provide court oversight of the emergency removal of children from their homes, the juvenile court directors or their designees receive requests to authorize emergency protective custody of children. This occurs when a child is reported to be in immediate danger from the child’s surroundings and removal is necessary to protect the child from harm. In 2022, there were 708 emergency removals authorized by either a law enforcement officer or Juvenile Court. The chart below provides information on removals each month by judicial units:

### Emergency Protective Custody Trends



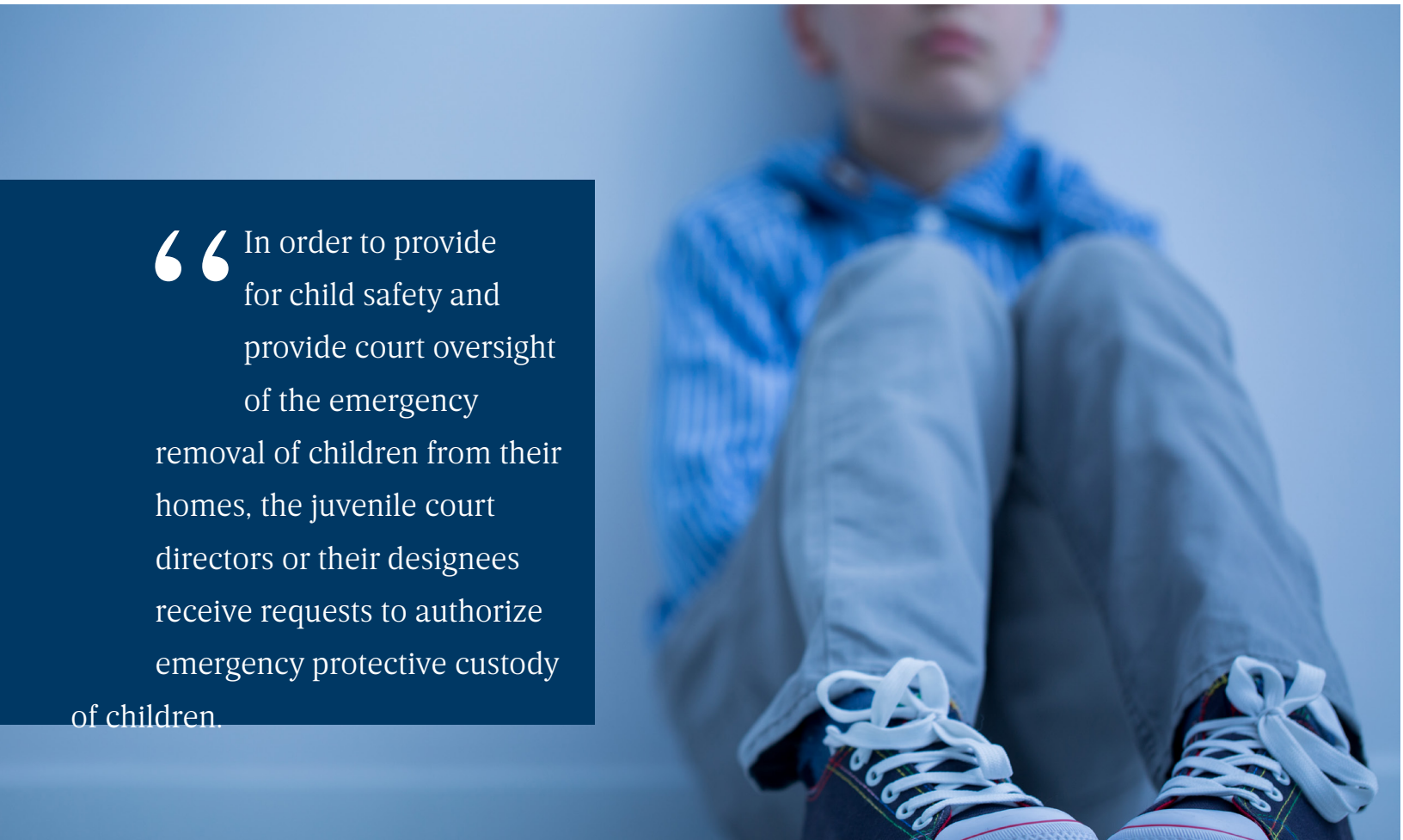
**TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS**

Ninety-six percent (96%) of the petitions for the termination of parental rights were brought by the state (involuntary), while 4% were at the request of the parent(s) (voluntary). Involuntary terminations cases are filed by the state. Voluntary termination cases are filed by a parent who, because of circumstances, is requesting that the Court take away the parental rights of another parent.

**CONTINUED FOSTER CARE**

Youth ages 18 to 21 who currently or have previously been in foster care may choose to stay in care longer in order to complete secondary school or an equivalent, or be enrolled in postsecondary or vocational school. The goal is to support them in continuing with an education in order to make a more successful transition into adulthood. The role of the court in these cases is to review the youth’s request or agreement to remain in or return to foster care under the eligibility requirements in state law.

Year	Continued Foster Care Youth
2019	28
2020	18
2021	24
2022	27



“ In order to provide for child safety and provide court oversight of the emergency removal of children from their homes, the juvenile court directors or their designees receive requests to authorize emergency protective custody of children.

# Juvenile Guardianship Cases

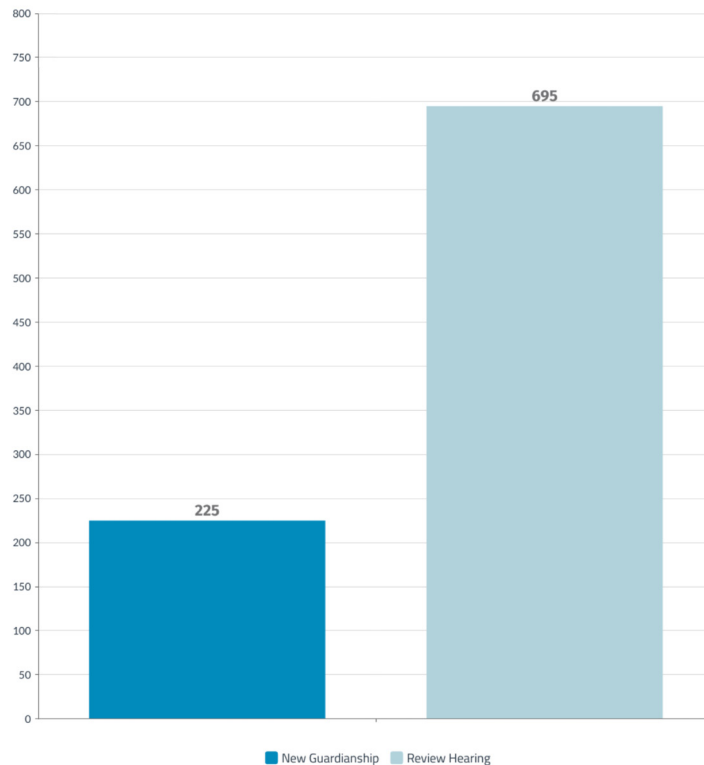
A guardianship of a minor child is a juvenile court process where a judge or referee appoints a guardian to act in the place of a parent of the child when certain circumstances may require someone to care for and make decisions on behalf of the child. The Juvenile Guardianship case type may arise as a permanent or temporary solution from a child in need of protection case where a relative or other appropriate person is willing to care for the child. Other cases begin as a result of a parent’s death, abandonment, or unavailability to take care of a child or failure to make prior arrangements for care. A statutory duty of the director of juvenile court is to review and examine petitions to establish, modify, or terminate a guardianship of a minor established under Chapter 27-20.1 of the North Dakota Century Code.

A large percentage of private parties requesting guardianship of a child do so without the benefit of legal counsel. Self-represented litigants are able to utilize informational guides and forms available on the North Dakota Courts website at the Self-Help Center. Juvenile court staff are often a point of local information for these self-represented litigants in order to provide timely and understandable access to the juvenile courts.

Supreme Court Administrative Order 34 became effective on April 1, 2021. The order requires all guardianship of a minor cases established in juvenile and probate court prior to August 1, 2019 be reviewed to bring them into compliance with new requirements established under chapter 27-20.1. These reviews are to be completed in 3 years, with 1/3 of the cases reviewed each year. Of the 1,666 cases in need of review, 1,655 (99%) have been completed.

Guardianships differ from other court cases in that courts are responsible for monitoring guardianships throughout the life of the case. This monitoring includes review of the child’s well-being and finances. It also includes an assessment of the ongoing need for the guardianship.

## Juvenile Guardianship 2022





# Qualified Residential Treatment Placement

When a Human Service Zone or the Division of Juvenile Services determines placement of a youth in a Qualified Residential Treatment Facility may be necessary, they must first have an assessment done by Maximus Ascend to ensure the placement is appropriate. Maximus Ascend is a contractor with the Department of Human Services. If the placement is found to be appropriate, the juvenile court director must then review the placement process.

In 2022, the juvenile court received 180 assessments from Maximus Ascend. The juvenile court director or designee reviewed 132 approvals and made any follow-up necessary to proceed with placement. Forty-eight of the assessments received were denials of residential placement by Maximus Ascend, which by Department of Human Services administrative rule are not reviewed by the juvenile court.

## **COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) provides support and resources to North Dakota's state courts, allowing them to evaluate and enhance court processes in response to the needs of children in the child welfare system. The CIP is funded by a federal grant provided by the Administration of Children and Families Children's Bureau.

The CIP grant enables state courts to assess the role, responsibilities and effectiveness of courts in carrying out laws relating to child welfare proceedings. It also allows courts to improve the safety, well-being, and permanency planning for children in foster care. The grant supports court data collection and analysis and promotes data sharing between courts, child welfare agencies and tribes, and is used to increase child welfare expertise within the legal community and facilitate cross-training opportunities among agencies, tribes, courts and other key stakeholders.

## **PRE-PETITION LEGAL REPRESENTATION PILOT PROGRAM**

Over the past year, the North Dakota Court Improvement Program, Legal Services of North Dakota, Children and Family Services, and the North Dakota Indian Child Welfare Act Partnership grant continued to work on providing pre-petition legal representation to families in two Human Service Zones. The pre-petition legal representation model attempts to keep families together by providing early advocacy in child welfare cases prior to court involvement.

The pre-petition legal representation model was implemented within the Burleigh County Human Service Zone for children at risk of being placed in shelter care. In August, the model was expanded to serve the Three Rivers Human Service Zone. The goal of the model is to maintain children in their homes, mitigate safety issues and decrease the disproportionality rate of American Indian children entering foster care. Implementation of the model began on September 1, 2021, and 47 families have been referred to the program.

## **INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT AND RACE EQUITY**

In 2022, the Court Improvement Program, in collaboration with Children and Family Services, hosted two trainings on race equity improvement for court, state, and tribal agencies. The interactive presentations reviewed North Dakota specific race equity and ICWA data allowing stakeholders to practice using the information in order to catalyze future race equity work.

The CIP continues to collaborate with child welfare and court professionals such as state's attorneys, parent attorneys, guardian ad items, and judicial officers to improve compliance and implementation of ICWA in the North Dakota court process.

### DUAL STATUS YOUTH INITIATIVE

The Court Improvement Program funds and oversees the work of the North Dakota Dual Status Youth Initiative.

Dual Status Youth are those North Dakota youth that are simultaneously involved or were previously involved in the state’s child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The North Dakota Dual Status Youth Initiative (DSYI) works to improve collaboration, communication, and exchange of information between agencies. Once children are identified as dual status, the agencies work together to improve outcomes for the youth. This is accomplished by increasing interagency information sharing between juvenile court and child welfare and establishing child and family-centered multidisciplinary policies and practices.

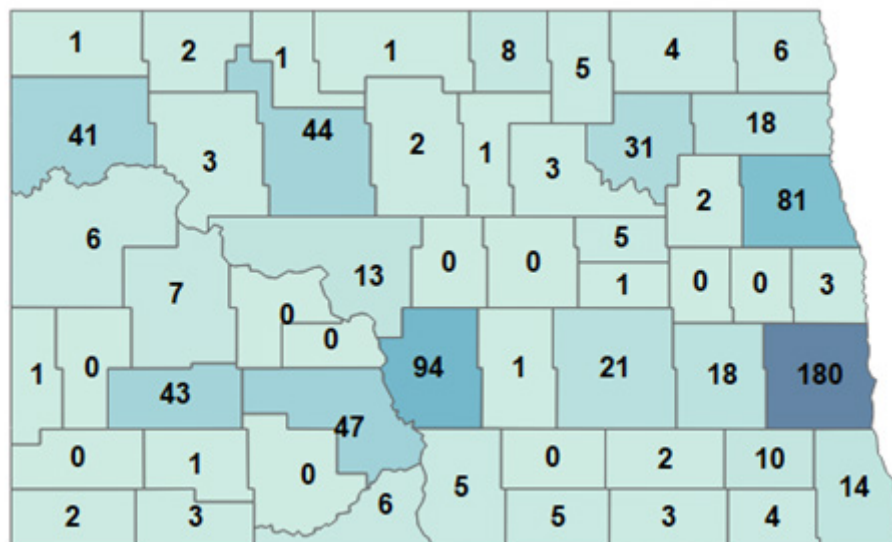
In response to Children in Need of Services (CHINS) referrals transitioning to the Human Service Zones, the North Dakota Court Improvement Program (CIP) updated the Dual Status Practice Guide to explain further the theory by which the initiative’s activities are intended to benefit the dual status population and published an updated list of parameters for holding and not holding required meetings.

The intended goal of these changes is to ensure best practice is followed and that a Family Centered Engagement Meeting is held when it is the youth’s first time being identified as dual status. Training on the new protocol and practice guide was provided to the CHINS team and juvenile court staff in September 2022. Data is collected and is used to track outcomes of dual status youth.

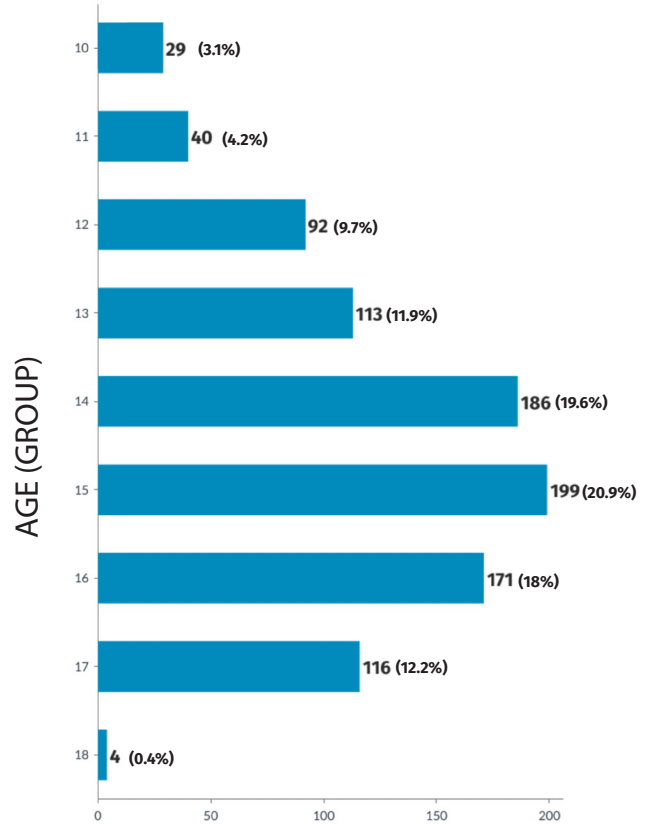
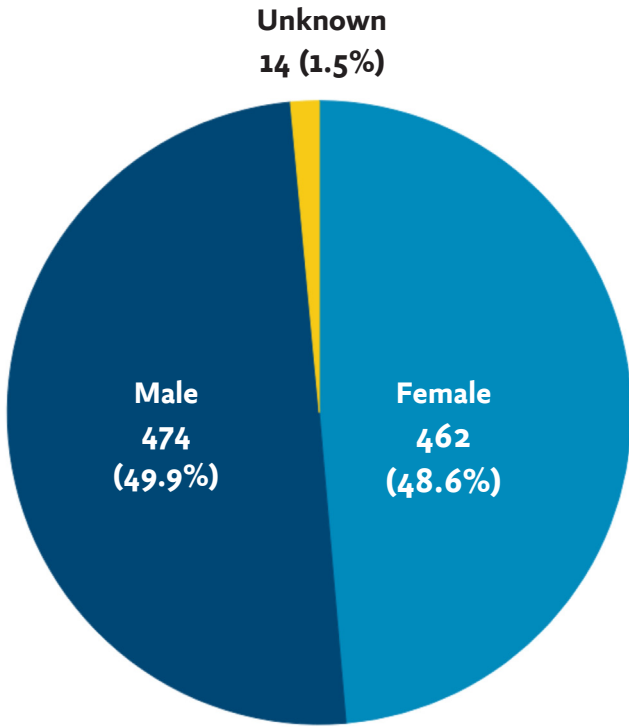
To achieve the best possible oversight and coordination of dual status youth cases, the Human Service Zone CHINS specialists and the juvenile court have designated a “DSY Liaison” in each of their respective areas. Roles and responsibilities of the DSY Liaisons include serving as a point of contact for all dual status youth notifications, clarifying policies and practices to agency staff, participating in monthly DSYI workgroup meetings to discuss practice and protocol best practices, and ensuring that child welfare agency staff and juvenile court officers have a complete understanding of their role and responsibilities when working with dual status youth.

One resource used to improve outcomes for dual status youth is the Family Centered Engagement meeting (FCE). The Village Family Service Center provides the FCE. The meeting consists of a facilitated team process that includes participation from parents, extended family, children, service providers, child welfare staff, and juvenile court staff to make critical decisions regarding the safety and well-being of the child to achieve the safest and least restrictive outcomes that are in the best interest of the dual status youth. In 2022, two hundred and twenty-six FCE meetings, along with additional follow-up meetings, were provided to dual status families.

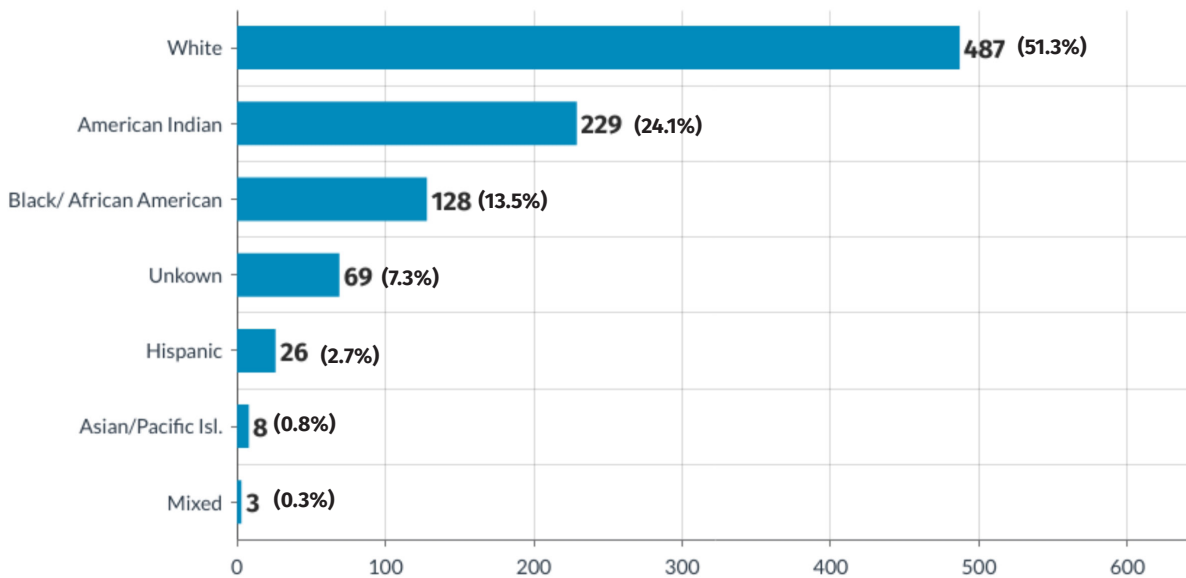
In 2022, there were 950 dual status youth identified by the Initiative. Four hundred sixteen of those youth were new to the Initiative. The map below shows where the identified youth reside:



Below is the breakout by gender, age and race for dual status youth in 2022:



### Race





# Juvenile Court

## Accomplishments and Goals

**Key Accomplishments:** The juvenile court continues to focus on juvenile justice reform. Work focused on alternatives to detention, the transition of CHINS youth from juvenile court to the Human Service Zones, and services planning for justice involved youth. Juvenile Court staff participated in the three legislative workgroups identified in H.B. 1427 to work on process and procedural change. The three groups included Juvenile Justice Planning, Alternatives to Detention, and Child in Need of Services (CHINS).

1. The Services Planning Working Group was charged with advancing recommendations for expanding and strengthening services that will support justice-involved youth to remain safely in the community and improve outcomes for this population. The Working Group has helped to support agency-specific recommendations for implementation but also identified cross-systems challenges that impede North Dakota from fully establishing an array of high-quality, community-based services.
2. The Children In Need of Services (CHINS) committee was tasked with access, guidance, and coordination for transitioning children in need of services being referred to the human service zones. Strategies, policies, and protocols were established for schools, law enforcement, and other entities to provide guidance for making referrals and addressing protective custody situations that can exist with runaway referrals.
3. The Alternatives to Detention committee was created to review the process used to make juvenile detention decisions and develop detention alternatives. The committee suggested updating the detention screening tool, which is now required by statute to help ensure the appropriate use of secure detention. The committee also identified the need to validate the detention-screening tool to ensure that it accurately predicts recidivism for youth in North Dakota. This group also identified a gap in the use of the screening tool, as law enforcement does not currently have access to all of the information needed to ensure the tool is scored correctly. A recommendation was made to provide that information, and a potential solution has been included in a bill currently being considered in the Legislature. Lastly, the committee drafted a decision-making guide that encourages detention alternatives such as kinship care and Attendant Care for low and moderate-risk youth, ensuring that only high-risk youth are placed into detention.

The 67th legislature approved funds to replace the legacy database of the juvenile court. An enormous amount of time and effort was dedicated to the juvenile database replacement project. The Juvenile Court Replacement Team consisted of Scott Hopwood, Karen Kringlie, Shawn Peterson, Carrie Hjellming, Scott Johnson, Chase Breitbach, Nicole Leitner, Cassie McCamy, Chris Lipsh, Robin Olson, Jennifer Perdaems, Andy Chintis, and Cathy Ferderer. The replacement team chose a product by Tyler Technologies to serve as the new case management and supervision system. The IT staff included John Tassava, Cammie Schock and Channing Backes. The team and Tyler Technologies completed data mapping, conducted data review sessions, built business process documents, and prepared for staff training in anticipation of the go-live date of May 1, 2023.

# 2023 Goals:

1. To increase youth access to evidenced-based services regardless of geographic location through participation in the Systems of Care Grant Workgroup through the Department of Behavioral Health.
2. To continue to work on system reforms through juvenile court staff participation on the Educational Workgroup and the Racial Disparities work group.
3. To continue to enhance our work through follow-up training in the area of Growth Focused Case management and the use of the YASI case plan.
4. To fully implement the new juvenile court case management system, increase staff efficiency and enhance our ability to track data and outcomes of the youth we serve.
5. Participate in a study on the feasibility of establishing a separate delinquency code to replace the existing criminal code that is used for both adult and juvenile offenders if the legislature chooses to pursue the study.

