TARRANT COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES

2025 Annual Report

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Overview of Tarrant County Juvenile Services

Tarrant County Juvenile Services (TCJS) operates under the authority of the Tarrant County Juvenile Board, which is comprised of each state District Judge in Tarrant County, as well as the County Judge.

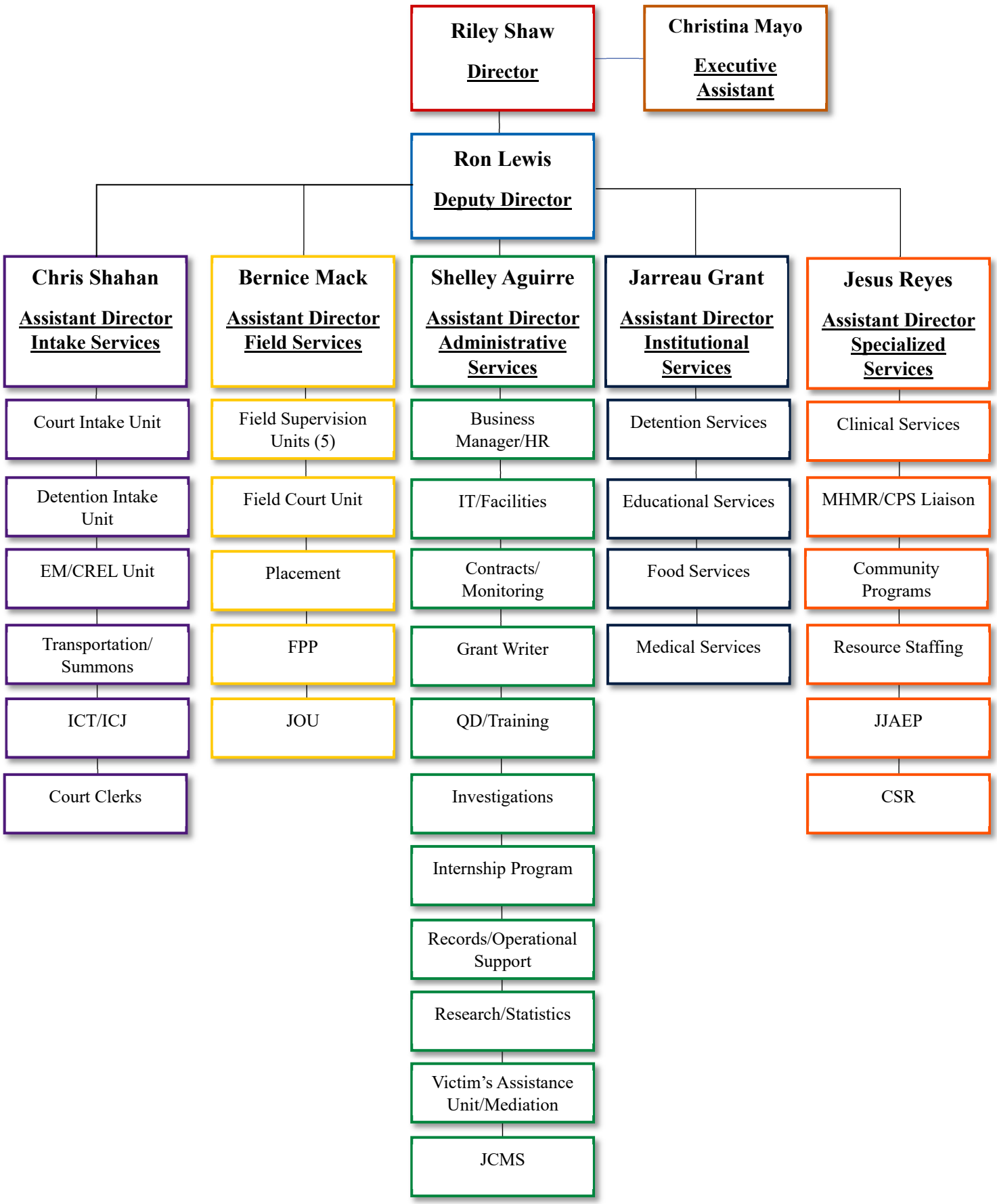
TCJS is the agency designated by statute to receive law enforcement reports of delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision allegedly committed by children aged 10 through 16. Delinquent conduct is conduct, other than a traffic offense, that violates a criminal law of Texas or the United States and is punishable by imprisonment or by confinement in jail if committed by an adult. This includes Class A & B misdemeanors as well as felony-grade offenses. Conduct indicating a need for supervision (CINS) is conduct, other than a traffic offense, involving fine-only offenses, such as Class C misdemeanors transferred from a justice or municipal court, and also includes public intoxication, truancy, running away, inhalant abuse, and violation of school disciplinary codes that result in expulsion.

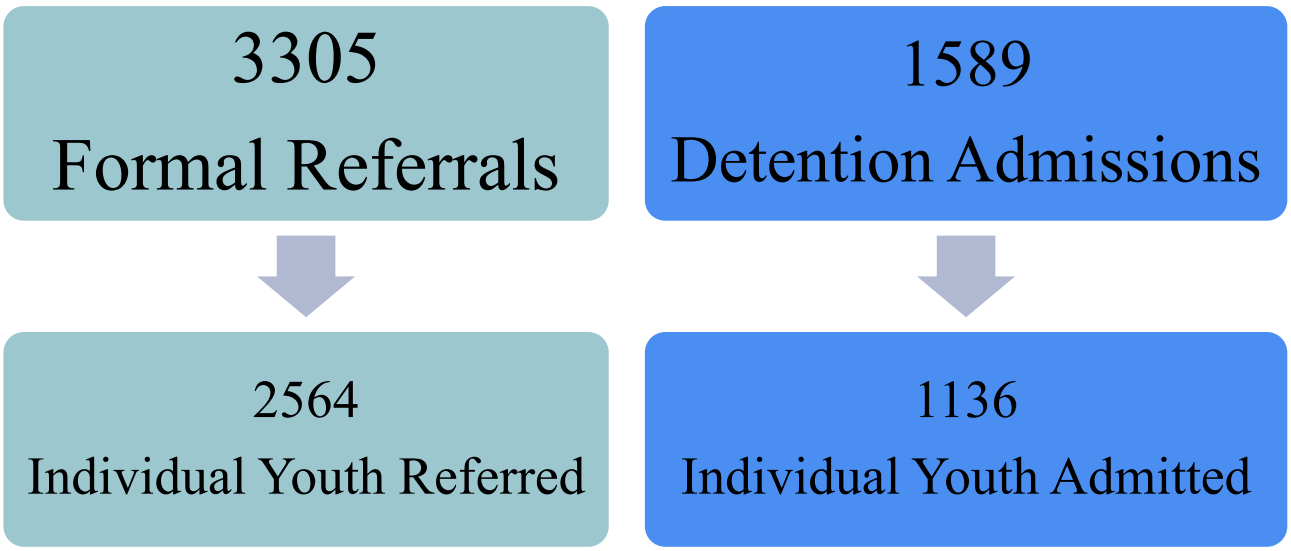
Services performed by TCJS include screening and diversion of cases to community resources, presenting objective reports to the court for use at disposition, overseeing and coordinating court-ordered treatment and supervision, administering community corrections programs, securing alternative placements, and assisting victims of crime.

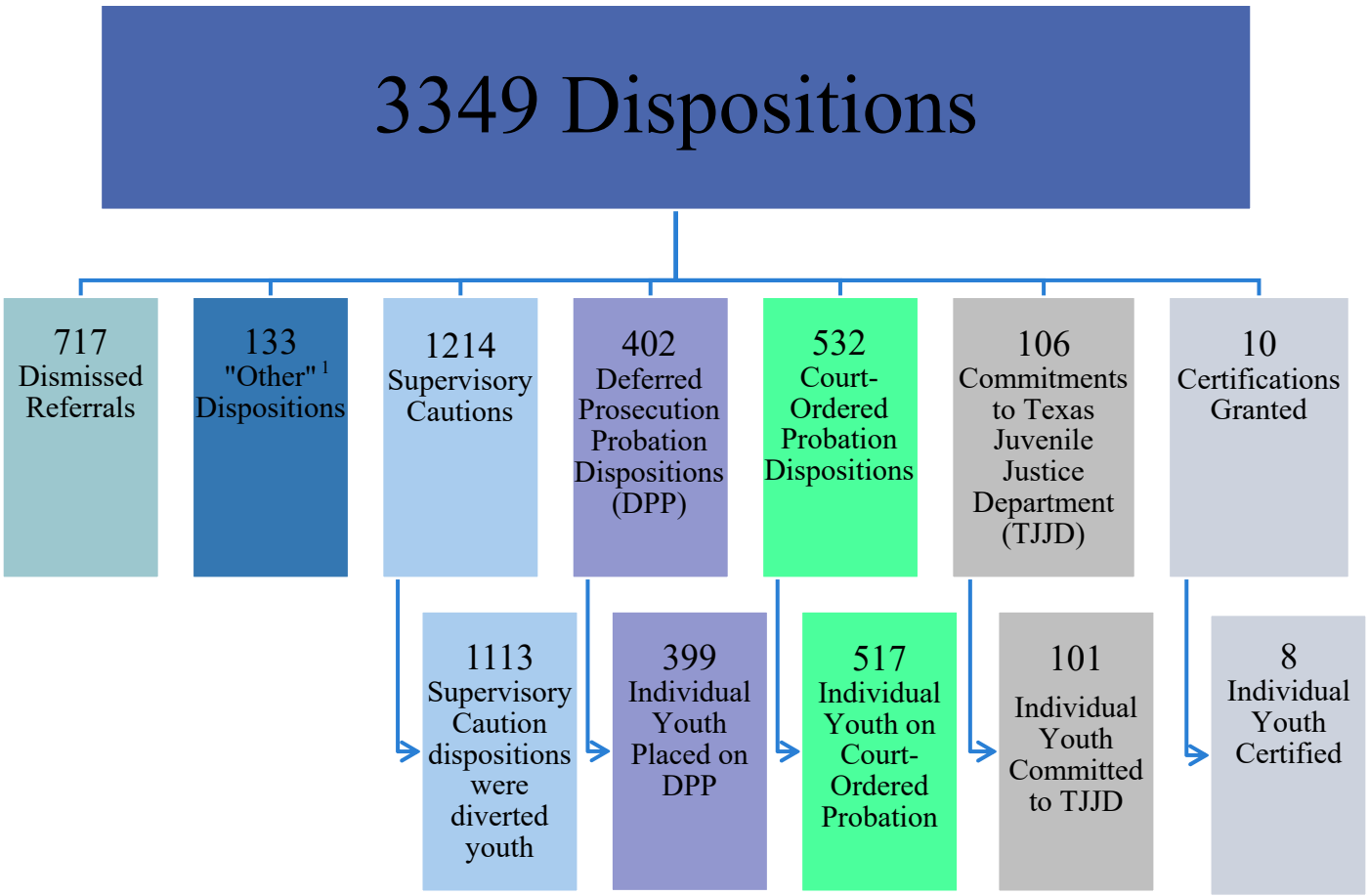
TCJS also operates the Lynn W. Ross Juvenile Detention Center, which is a 24-hour secure facility for the temporary detention of juveniles. The Detention Center provides secure housing, supervision, education, medical evaluation and treatment, recreational activities, and life skills programming.

In addition to the above, TCJS operates the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP), which provides educational services to youth who were expelled from public school or ordered to attend the JJAEP by the Juvenile Court.

2025: Organizational Chart





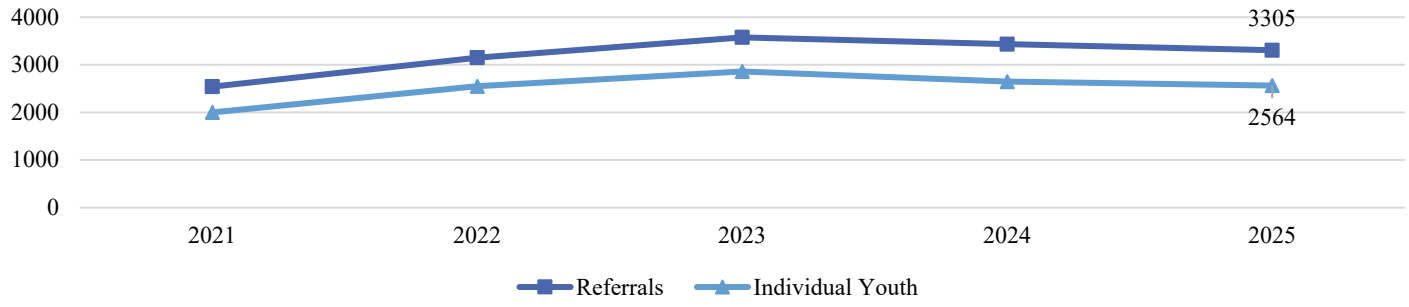


[1] "Other" Dispositions include consolidations, taken into consideration, and transfers.

Formalized Referral Trends: 2021–2025

Referrals	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	1-Year Percent Change	5-Year Percent Change
Felony							
Assault	235	316	346	352	361	2.6%	53.6%
Burglary	48	48	51	62	70	12.9%	45.8%
Drug	104	312	449	387	337	-12.9%	224.0%
Homicide	18	34	13	10	9	-10.0%	-50.0%
Other Felony**	147	176	199	214	207	-3.3%	40.8%
Other Property	38	42	52	45	58	28.9%	52.6%
Other Violent	4	2	5	6	3	-50.0%	-25.0%
Robbery	92	77	64	98	91	-7.1%	-1.1%
Sexual Assault	124	73	73	69	58	-15.9%	-53.2%
Theft	108	95	121	117	106	-9.4%	-1.9%
Weapon	24	44	25	41	20	-51.2%	-16.7%
Total Felonies	**942**	**1219**	**1398**	**1401**	**1320**	**-5.8%**	**40.1%**
Misdemeanor							
Assault	638	938	1067	890	915	2.8%	43.4%
Drug	99	104	78	46	44	-4.3%	-55.6%
Other Misdemeanor**	247	283	346	350	289	-17.4%	17.0%
Other Property	65	76	61	67	88	31.3%	35.4%
Theft	111	114	176	175	126	-28.0%	13.5%
Weapon	62	64	57	62	56	-9.7%	-9.7%
Total Misdemeanors	**1222**	**1579**	**1785**	**1590**	**1518**	**-4.5%**	**24.2%**
CINS & Status							
Disorderly Conduct	1	0	0	0	0	–	-100.0%
Drugs	1	1	0	0	0	–	-100.0%
Other CINS	0	0	2	1	2	100.0%	+∞*
Runaway	54	30	24	16	15	-6.3%	-72.2%
Sex Offense	0	0	2	0	0	–	–
Total CINS & Status	**56**	**31**	**28**	**17**	**17**	**0.0%**	**-69.6%**
Violation of Court Order							
Violation of Probation	318	313	351	413	413	0.0%	29.9%
Contempt of Court	4	8	15	13	37	184.6%	825.0%
Total Violation of Court Orders	**322**	**321**	**366**	**426**	**450**	**5.6%**	**39.8%**
Yearly Total	**2542**	**3150**	**3577**	**3434**	**3305**	**-3.8%**	**30.0%**
Total Individual Youth	**2002**	**2549**	**2861**	**2647**	**2564**	**-3.1%**	**28.1%**

Referral Trend: 2021–2025

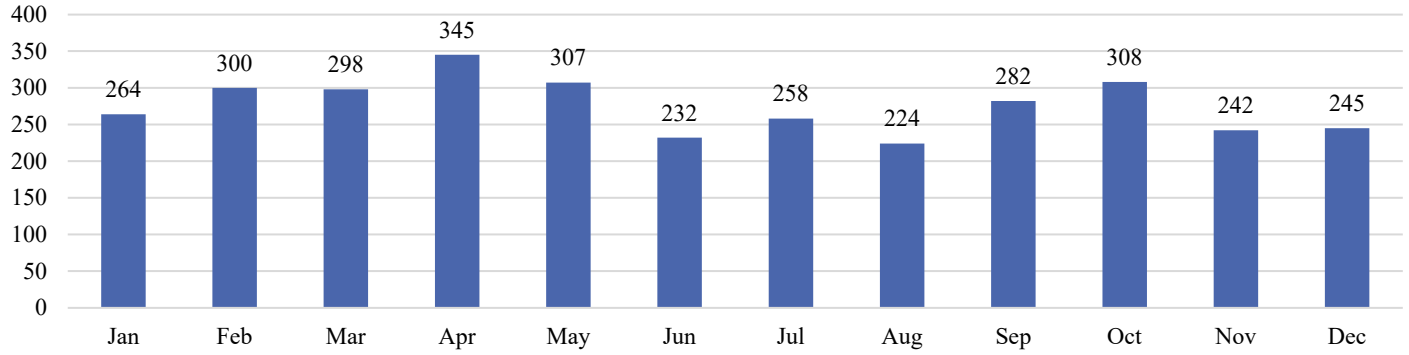


** Felony Other and Misdemeanor Other are defined by offenses labeled with a TJPC category of 012 and 018, respectively. A full list can be found on the TJJD Information Technology Applications website at https://www2.tjjd.texas.gov/services/searchoffenses.aspx.
* The percent change will reflect ∞ if the number is unable to be calculated.

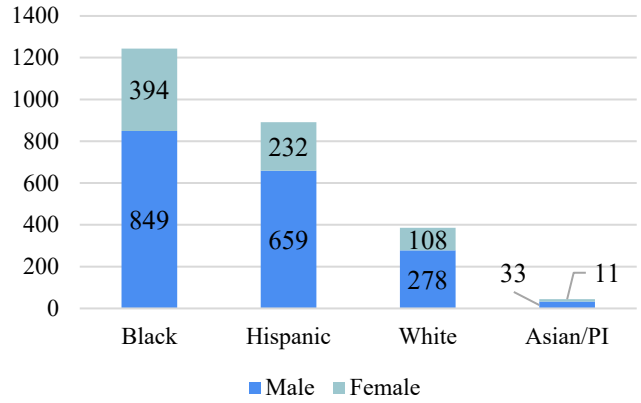
2025 Referrals Demographics

A referral is considered a formal referral when face-to-face contact occurs between the youth and TCJS. Formal referrals are received in one of two ways; out-of-custody and in-custody. (1) When a youth is referred out-of-custody, the referring agency notifies TCJS of the offense(s), and a letter is sent to the youth's residence requesting he/she appear for intake and processing. Once a youth has appeared for intake, the referral becomes a "formal" referral. (2) A youth is referred in-custody is physically transported to the Lynn W. Ross Juvenile Detention Center by a law enforcement agency for processing and temporary holding/detainment, this is also a "formal" referral.

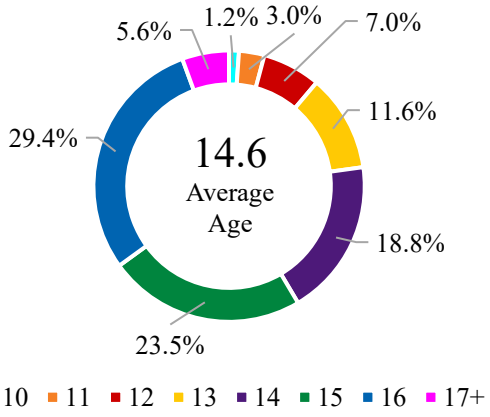
Formalized Referrals: by Month



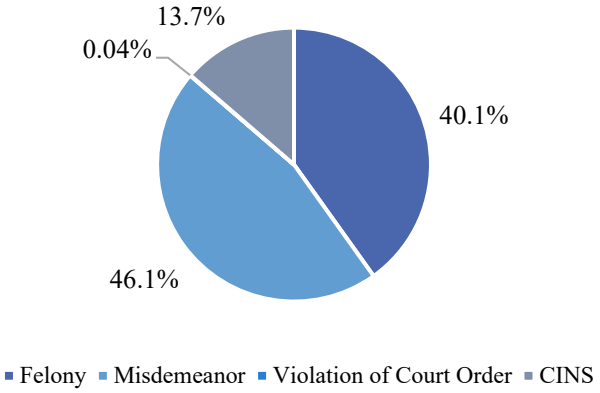
Referrals by Race & Gender



Referrals by Age



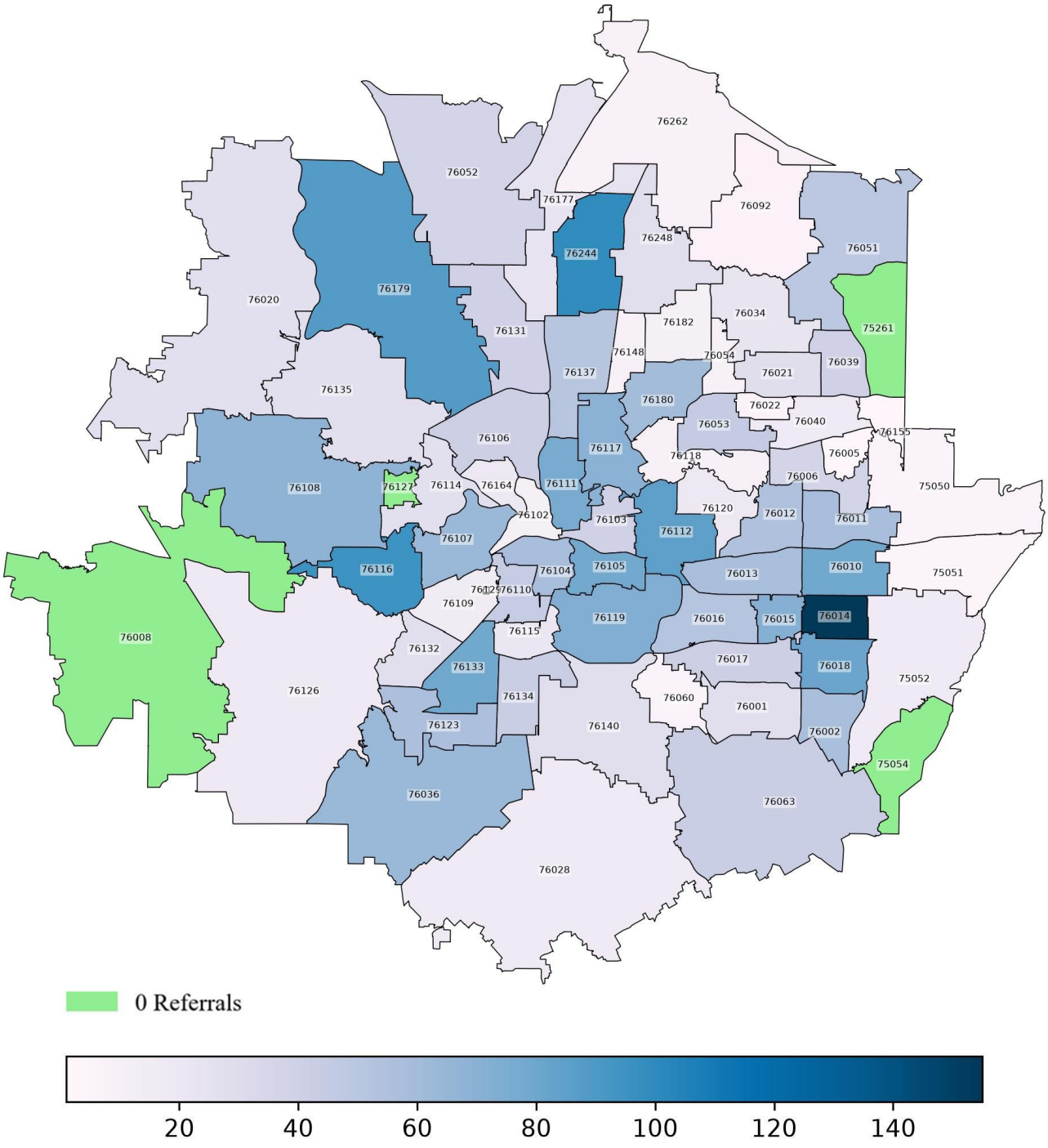
Referrals by Degree



Referrals by Risk & Needs Level

Not Administered = 69 (2.1%)		Risk Level			**Total**
		Low	Moderate	High	
Needs Level	Low	1720 (52.0%)	355 (10.7%)	0	**2075 (62.8%)**
	Moderate	45 (1.4%)	441 (13.3%)	446 (13.5%)	**932 (28.2%)**
	High	0	12 (0.4%)	217 (6.6%)	**229 (6.9%)**
Total		**1765 (53.4%)**	**808 (24.4%)**	**663 (20.1%)**	**3236 (97.9%)**

Referral Frequency by Zip Code



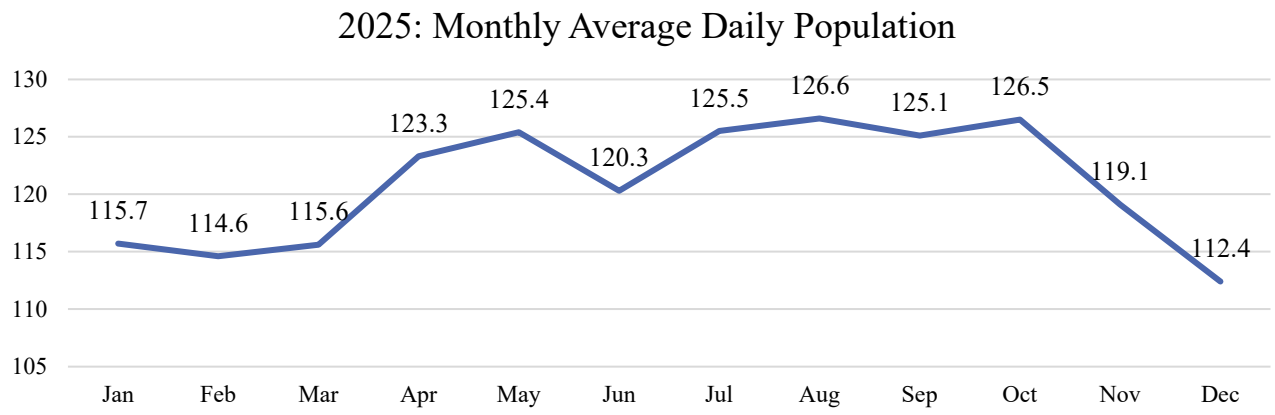
The color scale represents the frequency of referrals reported at each zip code for 2025. The lighter colors represent the least number of referrals received and the darker colors represent a higher number of referrals received.

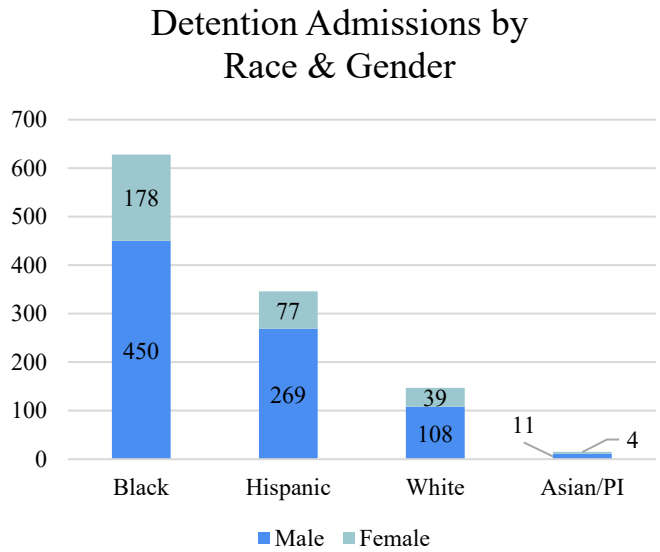
Lynn W. Ross Juvenile Detention Center

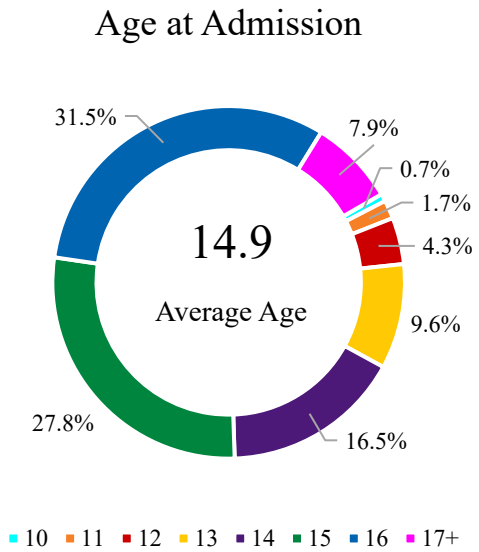
TCJS operates the Lynn W. Ross Juvenile Detention Center, which is a 128-bed, 24-hour secure facility for the temporary detention of youth who are pending court disposition for alleged law violations or violations of conditions of probation. The Detention Center provides education, supervision, activities, and counseling for the youth during their stay. Each youth is screened for risk of human trafficking, identification of emotional and mental health concerns, and receives a basic health care screening through an on-site medical clinic.

In 2025, 1136 individual youth were associated with 1589 admissions to the Lynn W. Ross Juvenile Detention Center. Male youth represented 73.8% (*n* = 838) and female youth with 23.2% (*n* = 298). Black youth represented 55.3% (*n* = 628), followed by Hispanic youth with 30.5% (*n* = 346), White youth with 12.9% (*n* = 147), and Asian/PI youth with 1.3% (*n* = 15). The average age of youth admitted to detention was 14.9.

Number of Admissions	1589
Number of Individual Youth Admitted	1136
Average Daily Population	120.9
Awaiting TJJD Average Daily Population	23.8
Average Length of Stay (Days)	27.9
Average Time Awaiting Admission to TJJD (Days)	146.4







Court Hearings

The 323rd District Court is the court designated by the Tarrant County Juvenile Board to hear Juvenile Delinquency cases. The Honorable Judge Alex Kim is the elected District Judge. The most common hearings heard by the Court include detention, adjudication, modification, and disposition hearings. (1) All youth who are detained in the Lynn W. Ross Juvenile Detention Center are scheduled for a detention hearing the next business day after admission. At this hearing, the Court decides whether there is a legal reason to detain the youth. Youth who continue to be detained will receive subsequent detention hearings every ten business days and can request additional detention hearings at any time. (2) During the adjudication hearing, the Court will render a decision that a delinquent act was or was not committed by the youth as alleged. If the youth is adjudicated delinquent, a disposition hearing will be scheduled. (3) At the disposition hearing the Court reviews a social history report and any other evidence and enters a disposition order that may require probation supervision, placement out of the home, or commitment of the youth to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). (4) Modification hearings are held for youth who are alleged to have violated the conditions of their court-ordered probation. If a youth is found to have violated their conditions of probation, the youth can have their probation modified, extended, or receive an out of home placement or a commitment to TJJD.

In addition to these more common hearings, the Court also hears determinate sentence and certification hearings. Determinate sentence hearings are reserved for certain felonies and provide the Court with the option of giving the youth a disposition (probation or commitment) that extends beyond their 18th or 19th birthday. A certification hearing is held when the District Attorney files a motion asking the Court to waive jurisdiction of the youth's (felony) case and transfer jurisdiction to an adult criminal court for criminal proceedings. Youth are eligible for certification based on their age at the time of the alleged offense and the degree level of the offense.

Hearing Type	Number of Hearings Convened	Percent of Convened Hearings
Adjudication/Disposition Hearings	963	18.0%
Motion to Modify Hearings	280	5.2%
Detention Hearings	3442	64.4%
Determinate Sentence Hearings	60	1.1%
Certifications filed by D.A.	18	0.3%
Miscellaneous Hearings[2]	583	10.9%
Total Hearings	**5346**	**100.0%**

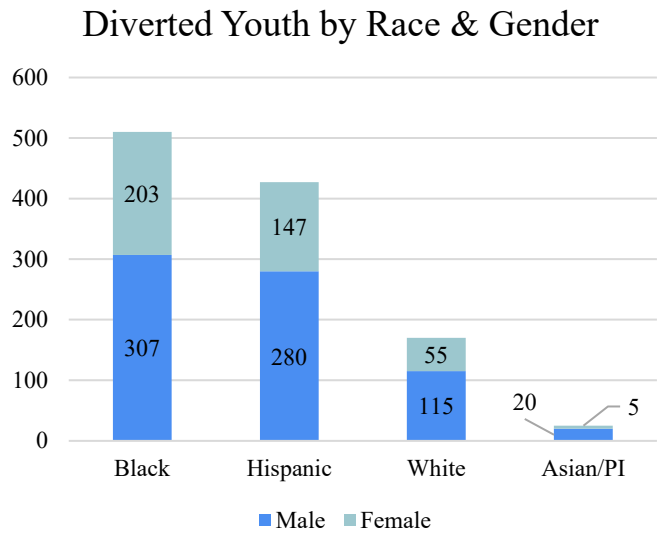
[2] Miscellaneous hearings include probable cause, motions, transfers, mental health, judicial review, and psychological evaluation.

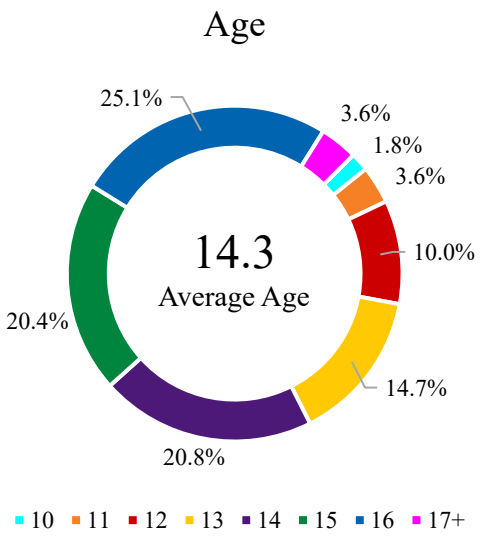
Diverted Youth

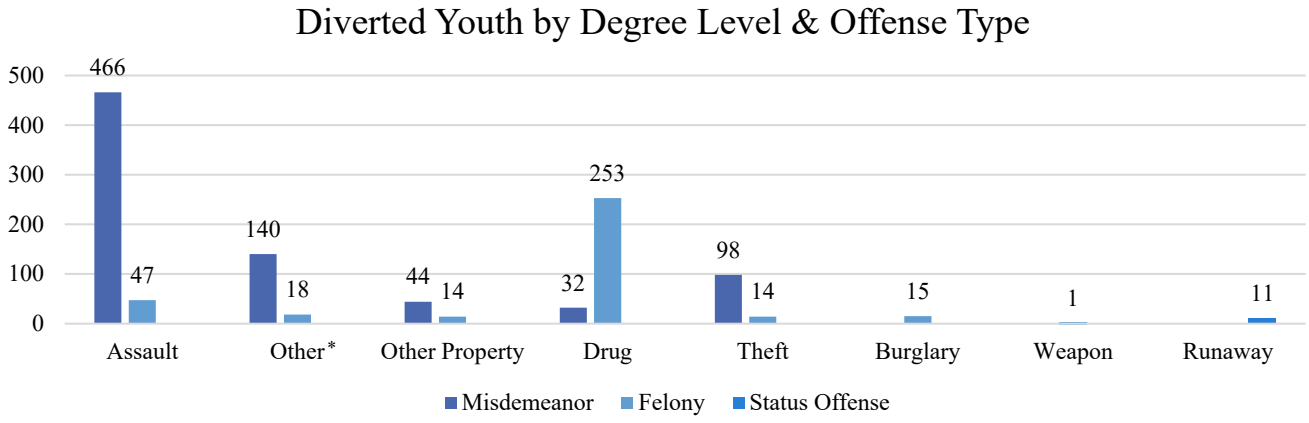
Diversion is defined as a youth who is formally referred to TCJS and subsequently disposed of as supervisory caution by TCJS without any other pending referrals or supervisions.

In 2025, 1132 individual youth were associated with 1153 diversions. Male youth represented 63.8% (*n* = 722) and female youth represented 36.2% (*n* = 410). Black youth represented the most diversions with 45.1% (*n* = 510), followed by Hispanic youth with 37.7% (*n* = 427), White youth with 15.0% (*n* = 170), and Asian/PI youth with 2.2% (*n* = 25). The average age of diverted youth is 14.3.

Misdemeanor offenses represented 67.6% (*n* = 780) of diversions, followed by felony offenses with 31.4% (*n* = 362), and status offenses with 1.0% (*n* = 11). Low risk represented 85.9% (*n* = 990), followed by moderate risk with 10.8% (*n* = 125), and high risk with 1.2% (*n* = 14).







Diversion by Risk & Needs Level

Not Administered = 24 (2.1%)		Risk Level			**Total**
		Low	Moderate	High	
Needs Level	Low	967 (83.9%)	20 (1.7%)	0	**987 (85.6%)**
	Moderate	23 (2.0%)	101 (8.8%)	7 (0.6%)	**131 (11.4%)**
	High	0	4 (0.3%)	7 (0.6%)	**11 (1.0%)**
Total		**990 (85.9%)**	**125 (10.8%)**	**14 (1.2%)**	**1129 (97.9%)**

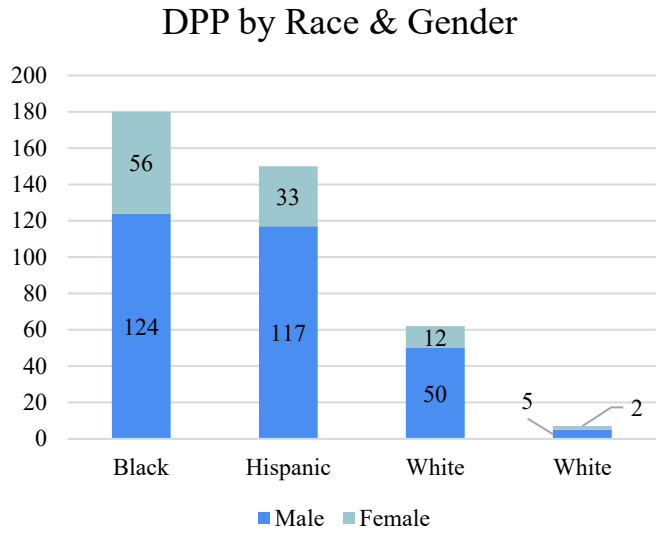
* Felony Other and Misdemeanor Other are defined by offenses labeled with a TJPC category of 012 and 018, respectively. A full list can be found on the TJJD Information Technology Applications website at https://www2.tjjd.texas.gov/services/searchoffenses.aspx.

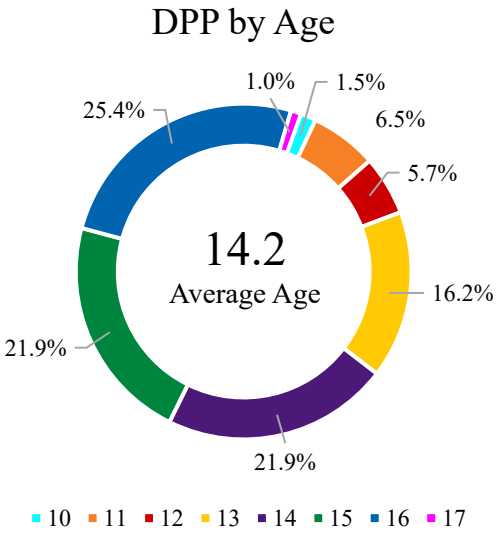
Youth Placed on Deferred Prosecution Probation

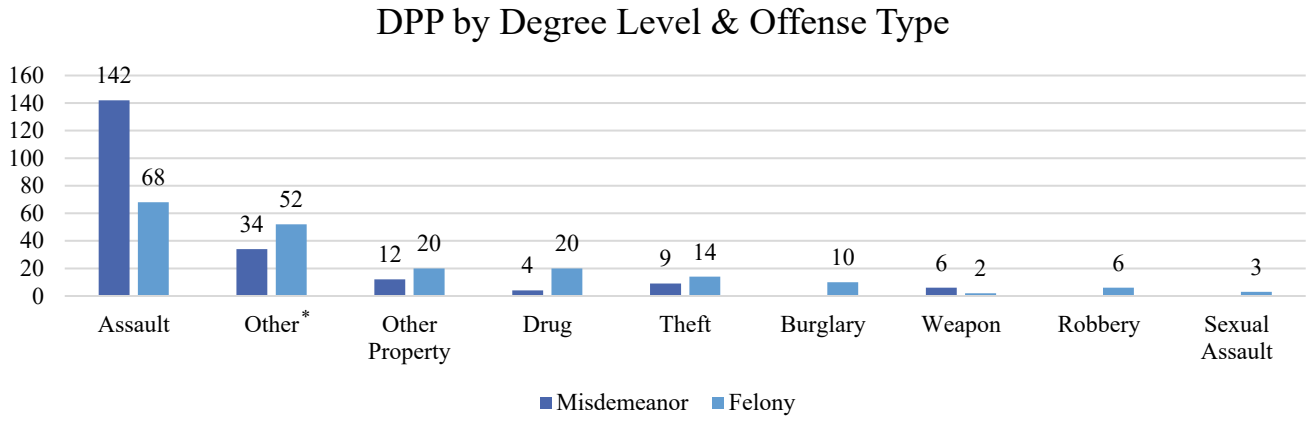
In 2025, 399 individual youth were associated with 402 Deferred Prosecution Probation (DPP) Dispositions. The District Attorney was responsible for 52.7% (*n* = 212) of DPP dispositions, followed by TCJS with 43.0% (*n* = 173), and the Juvenile Court with 4.2% (*n* = 17).

Male youth represented 74.2% (*n* = 296) and female youth represented 25.8% (*n* = 103). Black youth represented 45.1% (*n* = 180) of DPP dispositions, followed by Hispanic youth with 37.6% (*n* = 150), White youth with 15.5% (*n* = 62), and Asian/PI with 1.8% (*n* = 7). The average age of youth on DPP is 14.2.

Approximately, half of all DPP dispositions were associated with misdemeanors (*n* = 207, 51.5%) and the remaining were felonies (*n* = 195, 48.5%). Low risk represented 66.7% (*n* = 268), followed by moderate risk with 25.6% (*n* = 103), and high risk with 5.2% (*n* = 21).







DPP by Risk & Needs Level

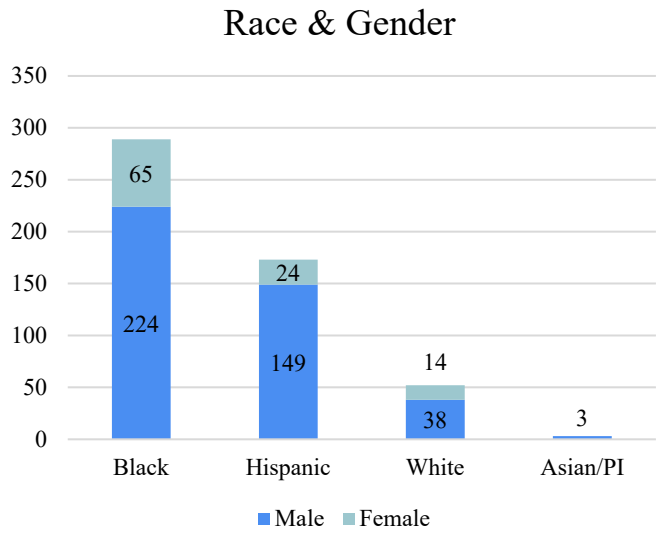
Not Administered = 10 (2.5%)		Risk Level			**Total**
		Low	Moderate	High	
Needs Level	Low	256 (63.7%)	30 (7.5%)	0	**286 (71.1%)**
	Moderate	12 (3.0%)	70 (17.4%)	12 (3.0%)	**94 (23.4%)**
	High	0	3 (0.7%)	9 (2.2%)	**12 (3.0%)**
Total		**268 (66.7%)**	**103 (25.6%)**	**21 (5.2%)**	**392 (97.5%)**

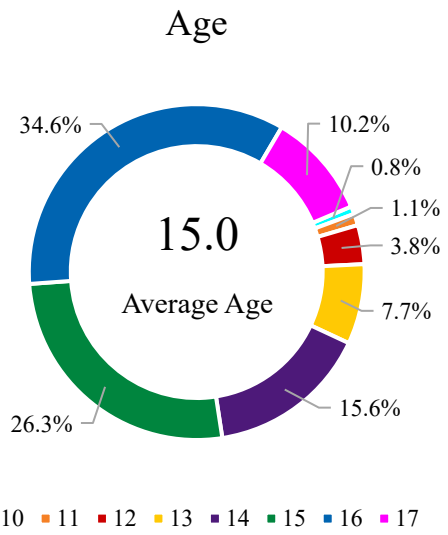
* Felony Other and Misdemeanor Other are defined by offenses labeled with a TJPC category of 012 and 018, respectively. A full list can be found on the TJJD Information Technology Applications website at https://www2.tjjd.texas.gov/services/searchoffenses.aspx.

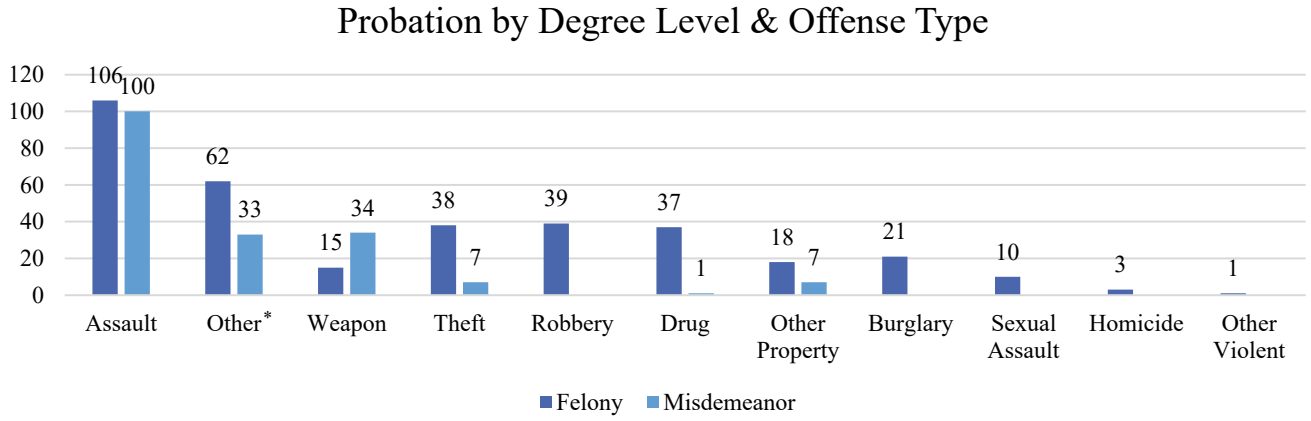
Youth Placed on Court-Ordered Probation

In 2025, 517 individual youth were associated with 532 Court-Ordered Probation dispositions. Male youth represented 80.1% (*n* = 414) of court-ordered probations and female youth represented 19.9% (*n* = 103). Black youth represented 55.9% (*n* = 289) of court-ordered probations, followed by Hispanic youth with 33.5% (*n* = 173), White youth with 10.1% (*n* = 52), and Asian/PI youth with 0.6% (*n* = 3). The average age of youth is 15.0.

Felony offenses represented 65.8% (*n* = 350) and misdemeanor offenses represented 34.2% (*n* = 182). Low risk represented 39.3% (*n* = 209), followed by moderate risk with 39.1% (*n* = 208), and high risk with 17.9% (*n* = 95).







Court-Ordered Probation by Risk & Needs Level

Not Administered = 20 (3.8%)		Risk Level			**Total**
		Low	Moderate	High	
Needs Level	Low	203 (38.2%)	87 (16.4%)	0	**290 (54.5%)**
	Moderate	6 (1.1%)	117 (22.0%)	62 (11.7%)	**185 (34.8%)**
	High	0	4 (0.8%)	33 (6.2%)	**37 (7.0%)**
Total		**209 (39.3%)**	**208 (39.1%)**	**95 (17.9%)**	**512 (96.2%)**

* Felony Other and Misdemeanor Other are defined by offenses labeled with a TJPC category of 012 and 018, respectively. A full list can be found on the TJJD Information Technology Applications website at https://www2.tjjd.texas.gov/services/searchoffenses.aspx.

Supervision Average Daily Population

TCJS provides three types of supervision: pre-adjudication, deferred prosecution probation (DPP), and court-ordered probation. (1) Pre-adjudication supervision is reserved for youth who are pending a court decision and have been placed in a pre-adjudication program or have been released from detention with conditions of release. Pre-adjudication supervision is provided by a court intake officer who is responsible for ensuring the youth complies with the conditions of the pre-adjudication supervision with services that are primarily reserved for juveniles charged with a Class A or B misdemeanor or for a single, first-time felony property offense. DPP supervision is short-term, lasting a maximum of six months, with the option of terminating at three months based on the youth's compliance with the conditions of his/her supervision. (3) Juveniles with lengthy or serious referral histories may be formally adjudicated and placed on court-ordered probation supervision for unlawful behavior for a period not exceeding, in most cases, their 18th birthday. Probation supervision enhances public safety and teaches juveniles accountability for delinquent conduct. Probation supervision includes a wide range of services and is implemented in partnership with the child's family to ensure success and promote long-term positive behavioral change.

Supervision Type	Average Daily Population
All Supervisions	1012.6
Court-Ordered Probation	558.7
Deferred Prosecution Probation	169.1
Pre-Adjudication Supervision	284.9

Average Caseload by Unit

TCJS operates three court intake units, five traditional field probation units, and four specialized units. The annual average caseload by unit is presented below.

Unit	Average Caseload
Court Intake	38.0
Traditional Probation/DPP	22.8
Placement	3.4
Family Partnership Program - SNDP	12.0
Family Partnership Program - Specialized	1.3
Sex Offending & Project SAFeR	7.8

Specialized Probation Services

TCJS Operates several specialized probation caseload programs.

- The **Placement Unit** oversees the supervision of all youth placed in residential placement as a condition of their court-ordered probation. Residential placement of youth is utilized when less restrictive efforts to achieve law-abiding behaviors have been ineffective.

- The **Family Partnership Program (FPP)** is a collaborative partnership between My Health My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMR) and TCJS to provide intensive, home-based services for juveniles on probation with mental health needs. FPP operates from a team-focused, strength-based platform, employing a team which consists of a juvenile probation officer, a therapist, and family members. The FPP unit has two caseloads: Special Needs Diversionary Program (SNDP) and Specialized. SNDP caseload primarily serves youth who display externalizing disorders (e.g. conduct disorder), while the Specialized caseload primarily serves youth who exhibit internalizing disorders (e.g. depression).

- The **Juvenile Offenders Unit (JOU)** provides specialized probation supervision for juveniles adjudicated for sex offenses. Juveniles on this caseload are expected to participate in a 9- to 12-month program of mandatory treatment which includes individual, family, and group therapy. Attendance at treatment sessions is closely monitored by specialized probation officers and a licensed sex offender treatment provider. The JOU also supervises youth in Project SAFeR, which is a pre-disposition diversion program designed to prevent future problematic sexual behavior for first-time juvenile offenders ages 10–14 who are referred for sex offenses. Juveniles on this caseload receive individual and family outpatient therapy to address sexual behavior, boundary setting, sex education, self-regulation, social skills, and how to acknowledge and apologize for inappropriate sexual behavior.

Specialized Services Number Served & Completion Status

Specialized Units	Number Served	Number of Exits	Other Exits*	Successful Exits	Unsuccessful Exits
DSA24 - Tarrant Aftercare	22	6	1	3 (60.0%)	2 (40.0%)
FPP SNDP	150	107	10	76 (78.4%)	21 (21.6%)
FPP Specialized	53	53	5	37 (77.1%)	11 (22.9%)
JOU	91	47	0	36 (76.6%)	11 (23.4%)
Placement	53	46	0	35 (76.1%)	11 (23.9%)
Project SAFeR	22	17	0	14 (82.4%)	3 (17.6%)

*Youth who exit the program for “Other” reasons are not included in the calculation of percentage of successful and unsuccessful exits.

Community Programs 2025

Program Name	Number Served	Number of Exits	Other Exits*	Successful Exits	Unsuccessful Exits
Surveillance Programs					
Community Based Detention (CBD)	25	25	6	11 (57.9%)	8 (42.1%)
Electronic Monitoring - Field Services	394	349	0	277 (79.4%)	72 (20.6%)
Electronic Monitoring - Home Detention	831	748	0	562 (75.1%)	186 (24.9%)
Community Programs					
Comin' Up	19	15	1	9 (64.3%)	5 (35.7%)
Community Navigator	79	59	11	41 (85.4%)	7 (14.6%)
Family Partnership Program (Reach)	22	22	1	18 (85.7%)	3 (14.3%)
Family Support	84	62	20	34 (81.0%)	8 (19.0%)
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	105	75	13	45 (72.6%)	17 (27.4%)
Ground Zero	179	141	29	78 (69.6%)	34 (30.4%)
Intensive Supervision Program	14	9	1	8 (100.0%)	0
MHMR Mentoring	31	30	15	11 (73.3%)	4 (26.7%)
MHMR Wrap Around Services	34	34	16	15 (83.3%)	3 (16.7%)
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	1	–	–	–	–
Recovery Resource Council - Individual Counseling	3	2	1	1 (100.0%)	0
Spanish Language Intensive Mental Health Services	9	6	1	4 (80.0%)	1 (20.0%)

*Youth who exit the program for "Other" reasons are not included in the calculation of percentage of successful and unsuccessful exits.

Community Service Restitution

Community Service Restitution (CSR) is a program in which juveniles perform a period of community service as a condition of supervision for offenses which result in a property loss or personal injury. This program is designed to help juveniles take responsibility for their actions while being responsive to community and victim concerns. It also provides a positive experience in community involvement and socialization.

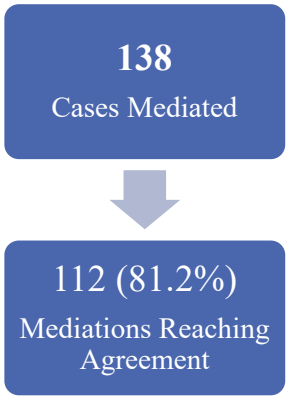
Community Service Statistics	
Total Number of Hours Performed	9047.8
Number of Youth Participating	611
Successful Exits	164
Unsuccessful Exits	161
Other Exits	37
Continued Participation	249

Victim Assistance Unit

The Victim Assistance Unit (VAU) was established for the purpose of supporting victims of juvenile crime and implementing the statutory rights accorded to them. The VAU is responsible for victim notification and case management, the collection of restitution and fees, and mediation. In 2025, VAU staff sent 2939 victim impact statements informing victims of their rights. In 2025, the VAU collected $50,417.82 in restitution and fees. Restitution can be either court-ordered or voluntary and is used to compensate the victim for injury or loss.

Restitution & Fees		
Restitution/Fee Type	Active Cases 2025	Amount Collected
Restitution	126	$46,650.83
Fees	12	$3,766.99
Total	138	$50,417.82

Victim Offender Mediation is a voluntary opportunity for offenders and their victims to have a face-to-face encounter led by a trained mediator. Mediation provides an opportunity for the victim and juvenile offender to negotiate reconciliation, resolve conflict, and attain accountability from the offender. By contract with a local service provider, some families who participate in mediation for an offense involving family conflict or violence may also obtain follow-up counseling through Victim Family Preservation offered through TCJS.



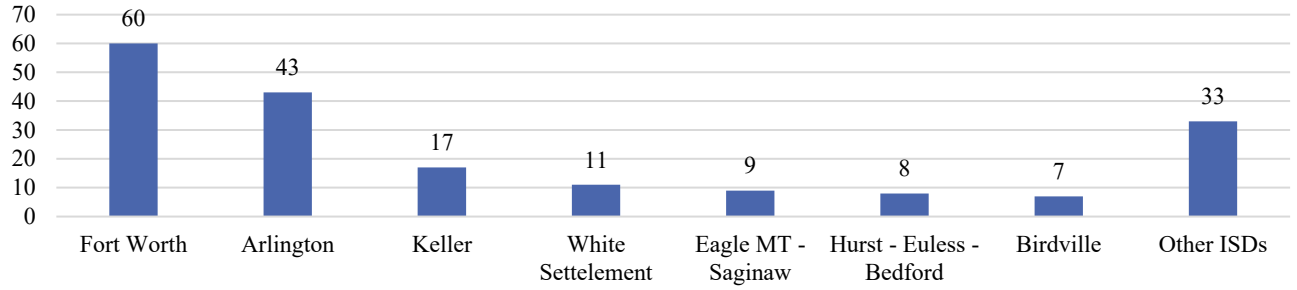
Victim Family Preservation	
Number of Youth Served	12
Successful Exits	8
Unsuccessful Exits	4
Other Exits	0

Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program

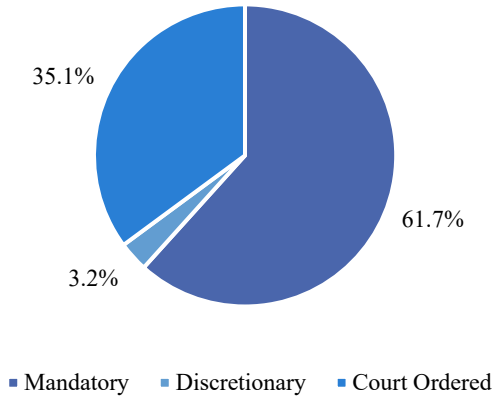
The Texas Legislature requires each Juvenile Board in a county with a population greater than 125,000 to operate a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP). The Tarrant County JJAEP provides educational services to youth who were expelled from public schools and from District Alternative Education Programs, as well as youth referred by the Juvenile Court.

There were 188 enrollments to JJAEP during the 2025/26 school year.

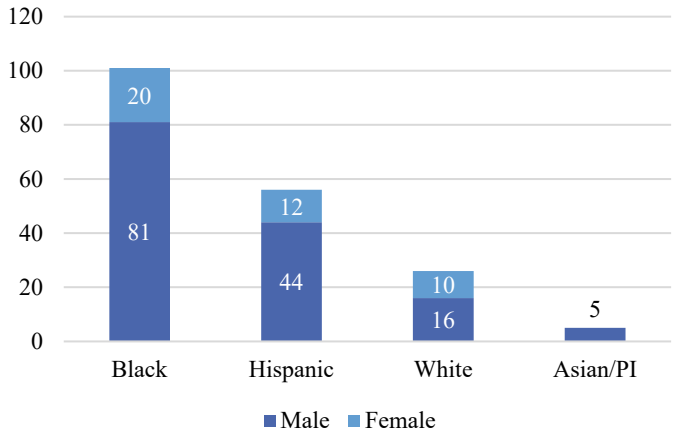
2025/26: Enrollments by ISD



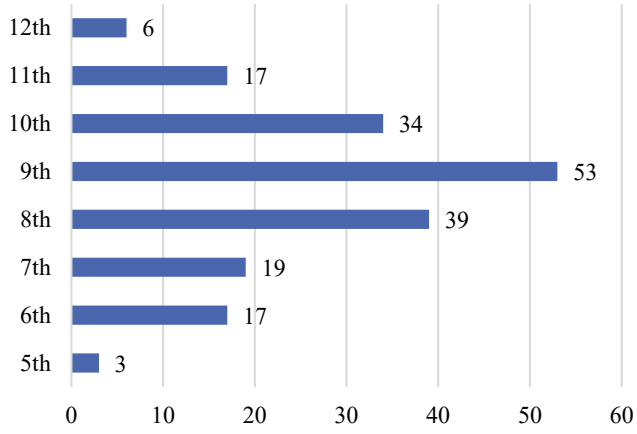
Enrollments by Expulsion Type



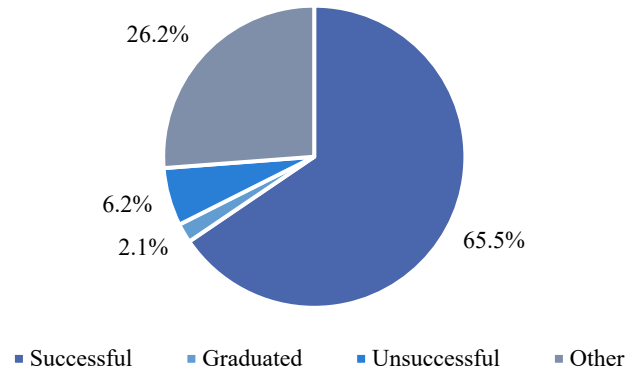
Enrollments by Race & Gender



Enrollments by Grade Level



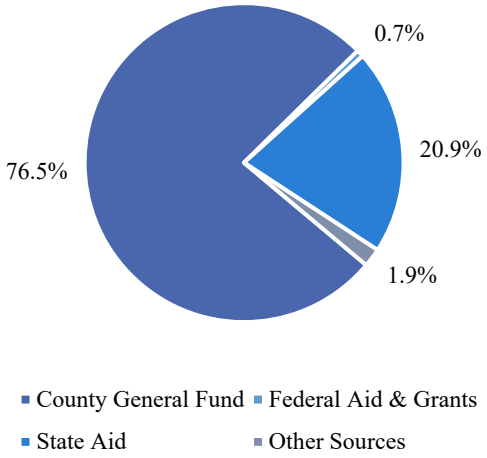
JJAEP Discharges: 2025/26



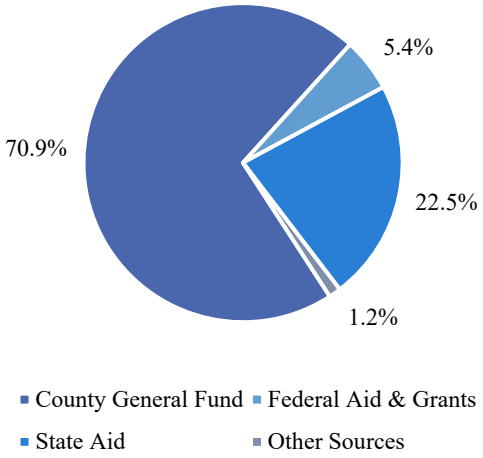
Tarrant County Juvenile Services Source of Funds: Fiscal Year 2025

COUNTY GENERAL FUND	**$30,103,875**
General Fund - Administration & Probation	$18,211,236
▪ Includes support funding for JJAEP and Grant Match	
General Fund - Detention	$11,706,649
Children's Home Trust	$6,735
Probation Fees	$43,252
Miscellaneous Donations	$10,085
Interest Account	$125,918
STATE AID – TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT	**$9,551,421**
State Aid	$7,694,077
Special Needs Diversionary Program	$216,800
DSA - Community Projects	$160,901
DIR - Salary Adjustment Grant	$1,479,643
FEDERAL AID AND GRANTS	**$2,307,451**
National School Lunch Program	$352,454
Commodity Freight Reimbursement	$945
TJJD Supplemental SB30/HB500 Pmt. 2	$1,954,052
OTHER SOURCES	**$511,619**
JJAEP Mandatory Reimbursement - TJJD	$305,344
JJAEP Discretionary Reimbursement - ISD's	$163,443
OOG State Criminal Justice Grant - Reconnecting Youth	$42,832
GRAND TOTAL – FY 2025 SOURCES OF FUNDS	**$42,474,366**

FY2024 Total Funds: $41,559,580



FY2025 Total Funds: $42,474,366



Tarrant County Juvenile Services

2701 Kimbo Road. Fort Worth, TX 76111

Phone: 817-838-4600

https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/juvenile-services.html