

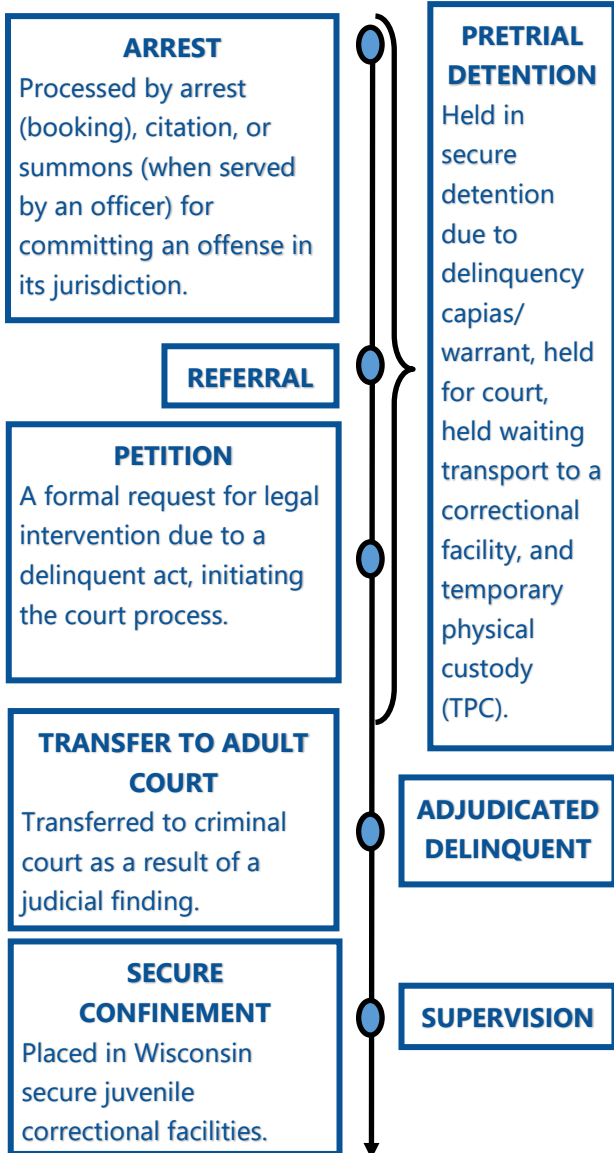
# Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Wisconsin's Juvenile Justice System

Wisconsin is required by federal law to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who enter the juvenile justice system.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (WI DOJ) collaborates with the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission (GJJC) and other state agencies to collect and analyze data; and plan strategic initiatives and funding priorities for reducing disparities. The data identifies the presence of racially disparate outcomes for youth at specific contact points, though it does not illustrate the root causes of these outcomes.



## Points of Contact for Youth in the Justice System



## WISCONSIN DATA HIGHLIGHTS

*DOJ consolidates data from federally determined points of contact where racial and ethnic disparities can occur. Data graphics are presented on the next page.*

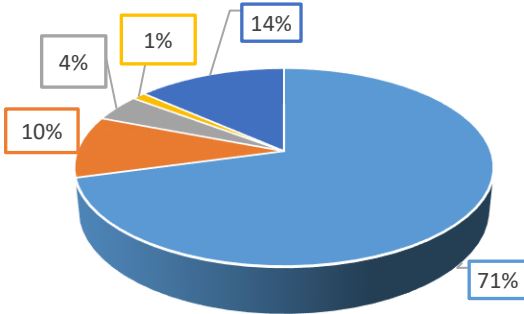
- Black and Native American youth are nearly 3 times more likely than White youth to be arrested, despite total arrests in 2024 remaining below pre-pandemic levels.
- While 25% of White youth referred to youth justice are petitioned, 50% of referred Black youth are petitioned.
- Black youth are 5 times more likely to be detained pre-trial and Native American youth are three times more likely, compared to White youth.
- Black, Native American, and Hispanic youth are more likely than White youth to be confined in a juvenile correctional facility.
- Native American and Black youth are twice as likely to be waived into adult court, as compared to White youth.

For more information regarding the Wisconsin Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission please visit: <https://gjjc.widj.gov/>

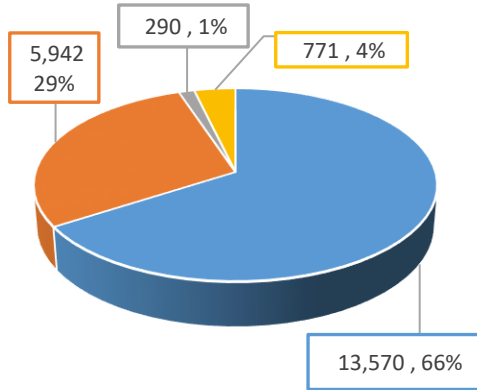
# Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Wisconsin's Juvenile Justice System

■ White
 ■ Black
 ■ Native American
 ■ Asian
 ■ Hispanic

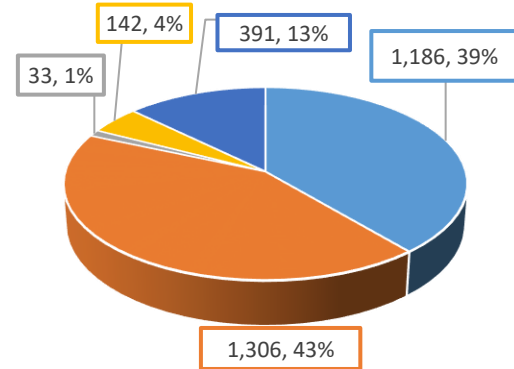
**2023 Wisconsin Youth Population Aged 10-16**



**2024 Youth Arrests Aged 10-16 \***

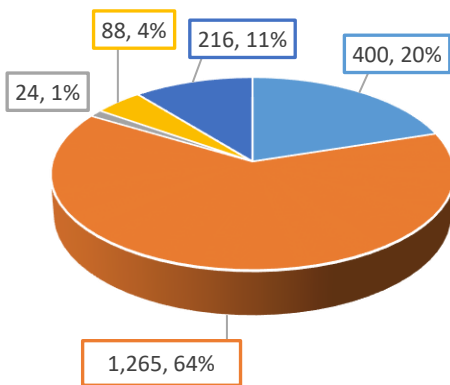


**2024 Youth Petitions**

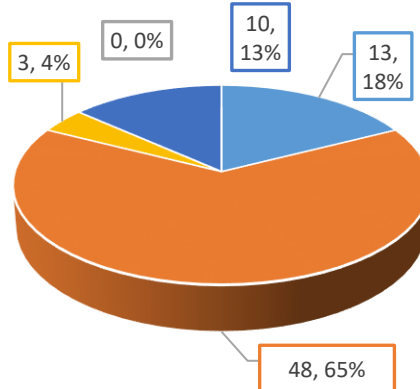


\* FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program (UCR) does not disaggregate arrest data by ethnicity; therefore, Hispanic is not included as a race. The racial categories for arrest data include youth of all ethnicities.

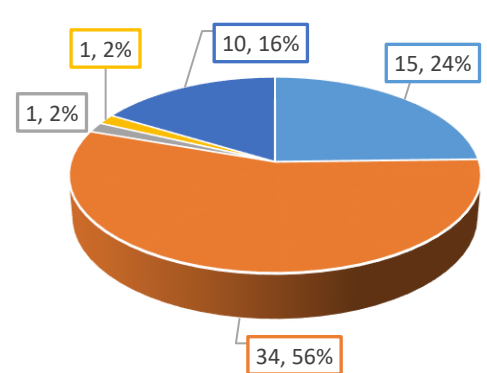
**2024 Youth Pre-Trial Detention**



**2024 Youth Disposition Commitments**



**2024 Waivers to Adult Court**



## RESOURCES

### Research:

- [Kids Forward](#)
- [The Annie E. Casey Foundation](#)
- [The Evolving Science on Implicit Bias: An Updated Resource for the State Court Community](#) by Jennifer Elek and Andrea Miller, the National Center for State Courts, March 2021.
- [The Sentencing Project](#)

### Tools and Training

- [Advancing Racial Justice and Equity in Youth Legal Systems Certificate Program](#)
- [Blueprint for Change](#)
- [DPI Equity Mindset Cards](#)

### Funding

- [WI DOJ Title II Disparity Reduction Grants](#)

## Action Items

### Data

Collect race and ethnicity data for youth served by your agency. Conduct an evaluation of outcomes by race and ethnicity to identify disparities and publish findings.

### Training

Provide youth-serving staff with training on topics such as implicit bias, adolescent brain development, and cultural competency.

### Decision Making

Develop objective and consistent decision-making policies and procedures to mitigate the effects of bias and discretion on outcomes.

Sources of Information: DOJ, DCF, DOC, WI Courts, Milwaukee County CYFS.