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Implementing Data-Driven System Improvement: Utah's Approach to Creating Better Outcomes for Youth

Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual Conference
June 21, 2019

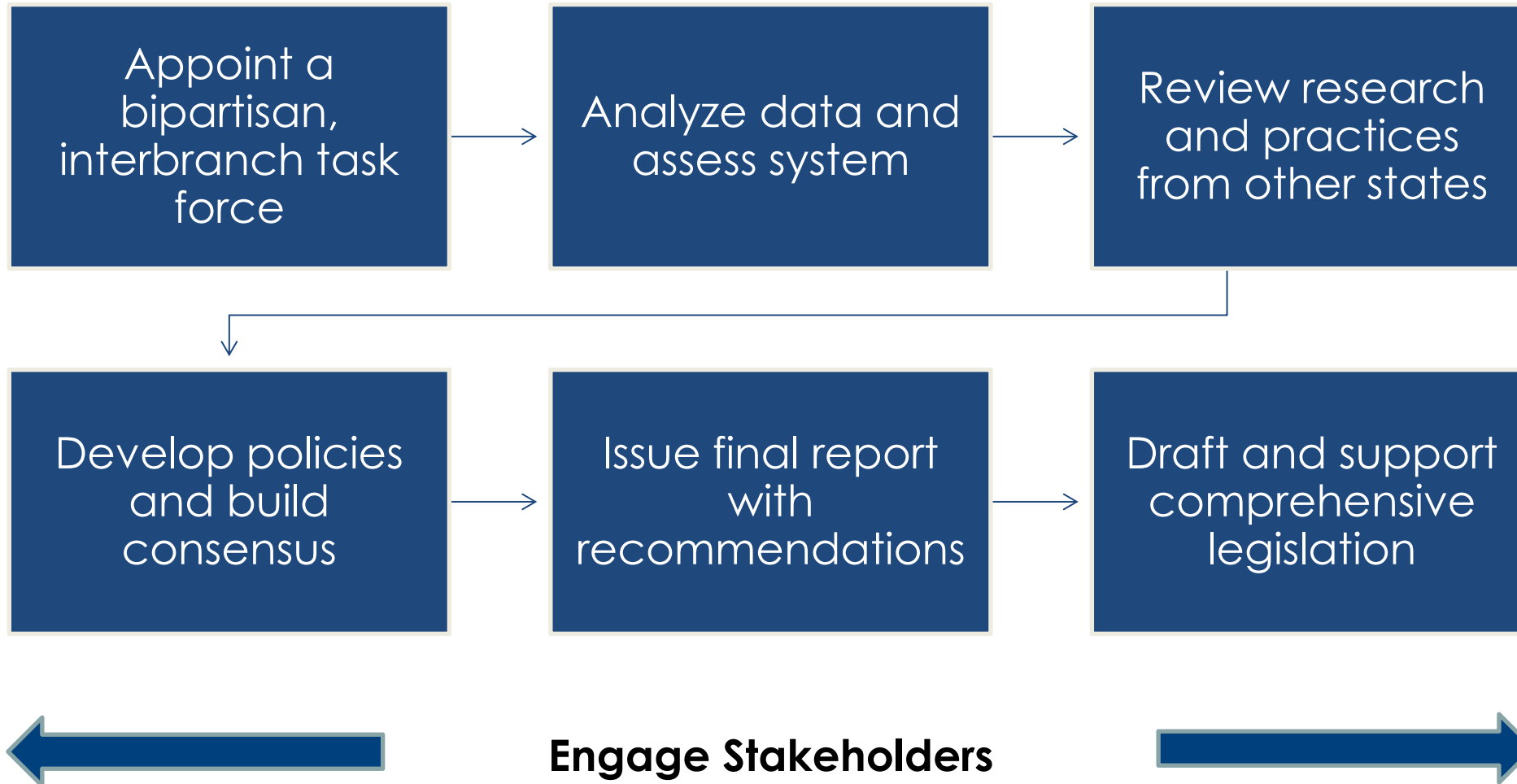
Pew and PSPP

The Pew Charitable Trusts: nonprofit organization applies a **rigorous, analytical approach** to improve public policy, inform the public, and stimulate civic life.

Pew's public safety performance project works with states to advance **data-driven, research-informed, fiscally sound policies and practices** in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

PSPP and our partner, **the Crime and Justice Institute**, provide technical assistance to states engaging in **comprehensive juvenile justice reform**.

Path to legislative change





The Path to Reform in Utah

Utah Juvenile Justice Working Group Charge

- Promote public safety
- Limit system costs
- Reduce recidivism
- Improve outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

Governor Gary Herbert	Chief Justice Matthew Durrant	Senate President Wayne Niederhauser	House Speaker Gregory Hughes
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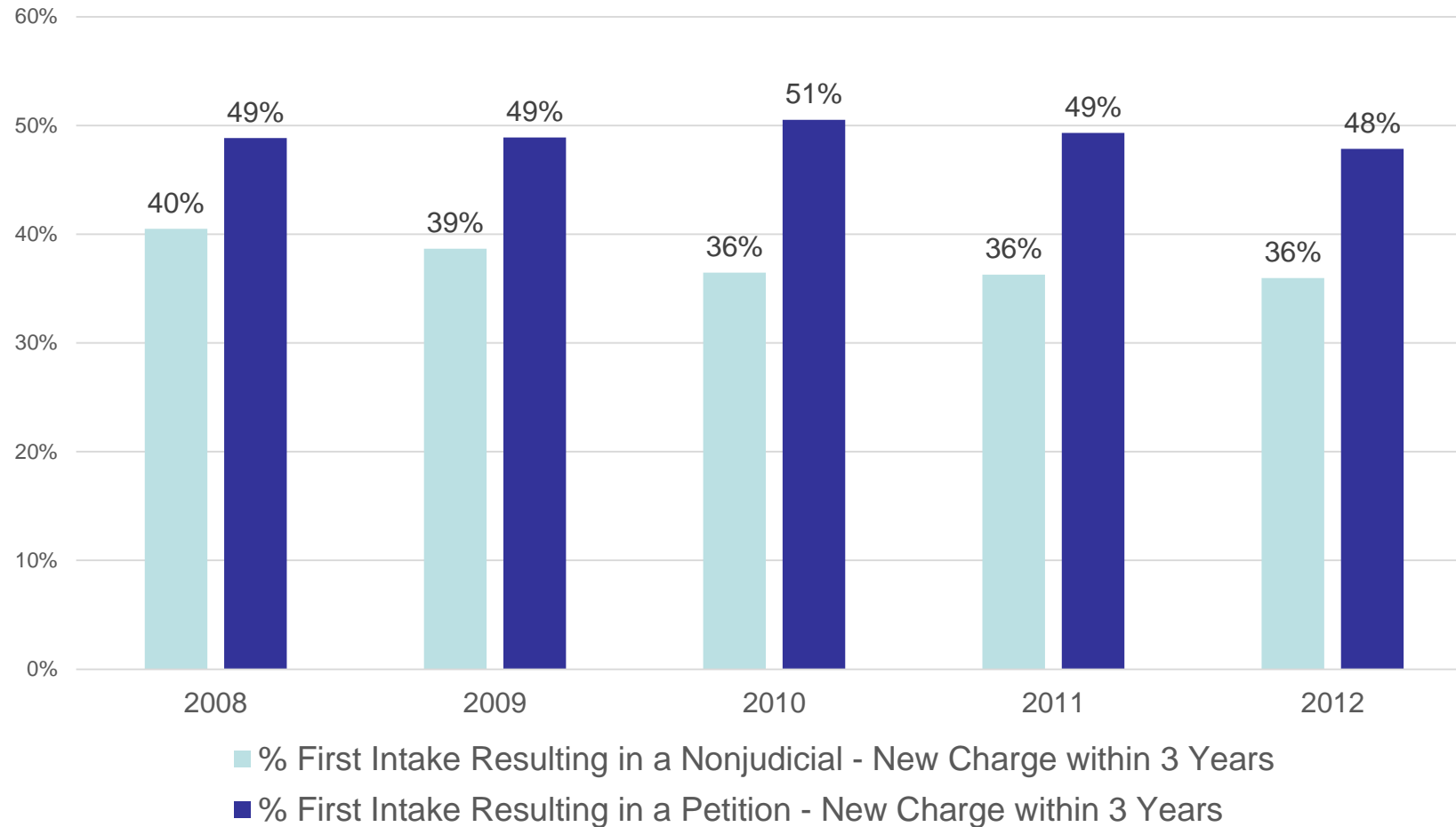
Working Group Findings

- Most youth faced **low-level charges**, but **responses inconsistent; diversion showed better outcomes**
- Youth often securely **detained** pre-adjudication on **low-level nonviolent charges**; **reoffense rates higher** for those detained
- Costly **out-of-home placements** were **common for low-level** offenses and contempts, despite poor public safety benefits
- **Racial and ethnic disparities** across the system
- Lack of **rural services**
- Once involved with the juvenile justice system, **youth remained involved for years**

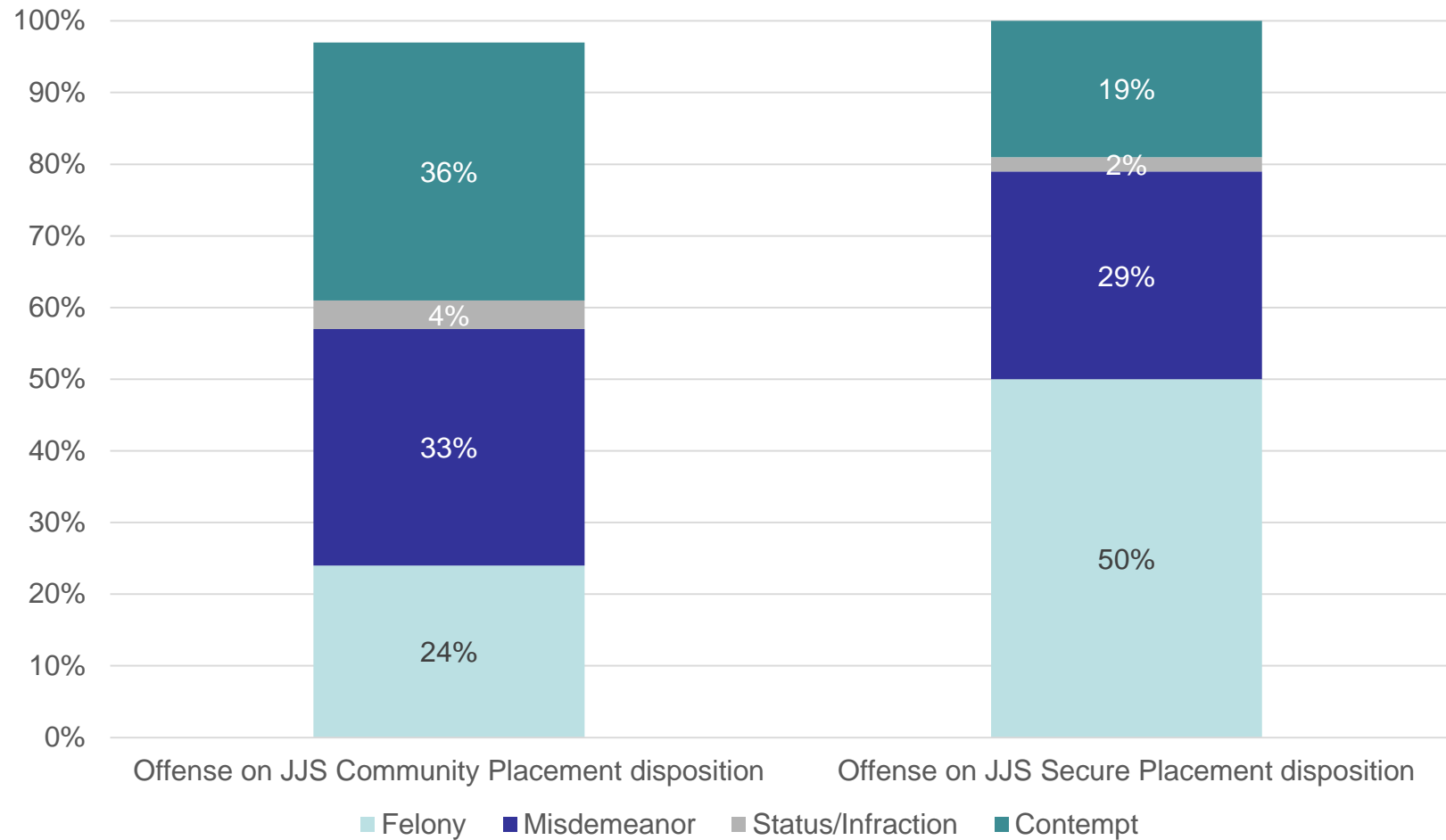
Most Youth Sent to Court for a First Offense Faced Low-Level Charges

Offense	Number of youth	Felony?
Marijuana possession or use	473	No
Habitual truant citation	258	No
Possession drug paraphernalia	174	No
Retail theft under \$500	172	No
Assault – substantial risk of bodily harm	157	No
Criminal mischief	117	No
Sexual abuse, child victim under 14	100	Yes
Alcohol possession or consumption	84	No
Possession of drug paraphernalia in a drug free zone	82	No
Possession of tobacco	72	No

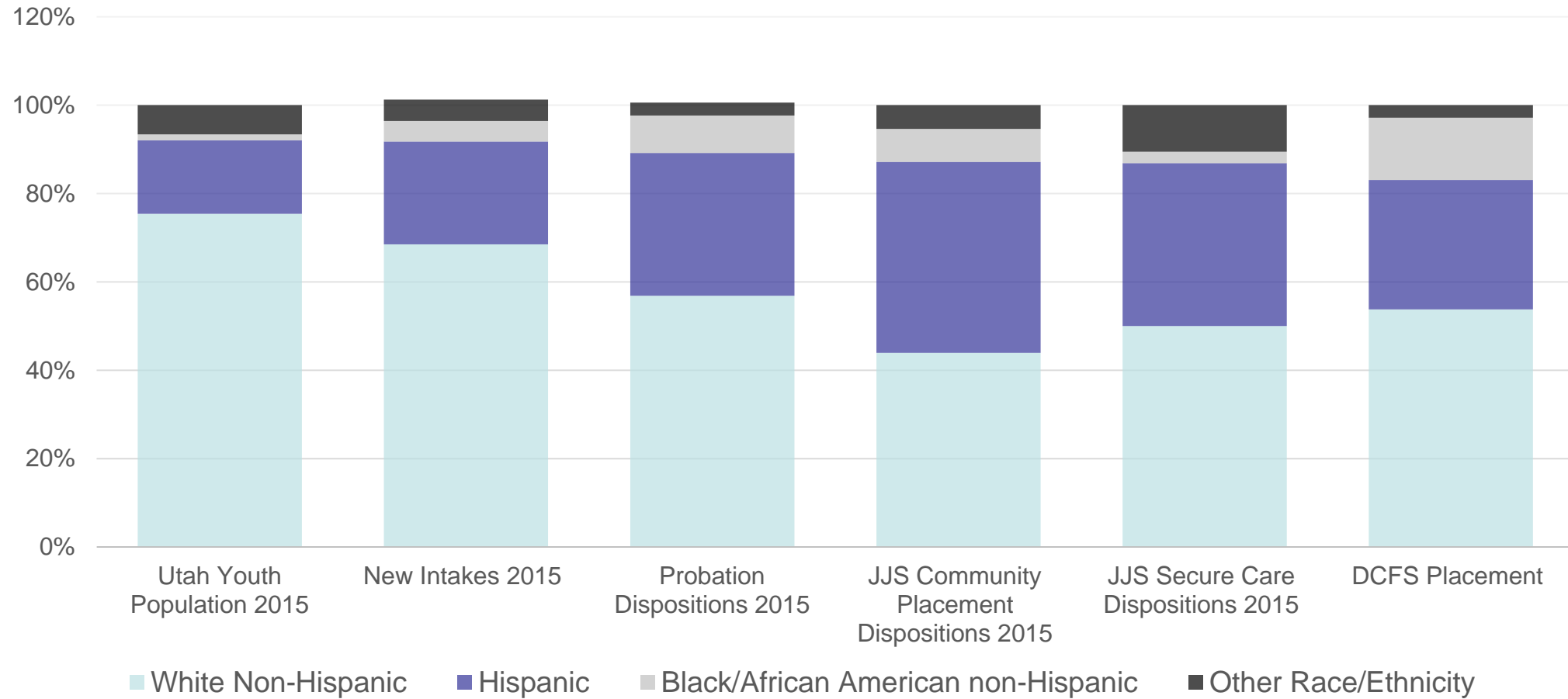
Youth Charged with Misdemeanors and Status Offenses Diverted From Court for a First Offense Had Lower Recidivism Rates (But Opportunity Varied)



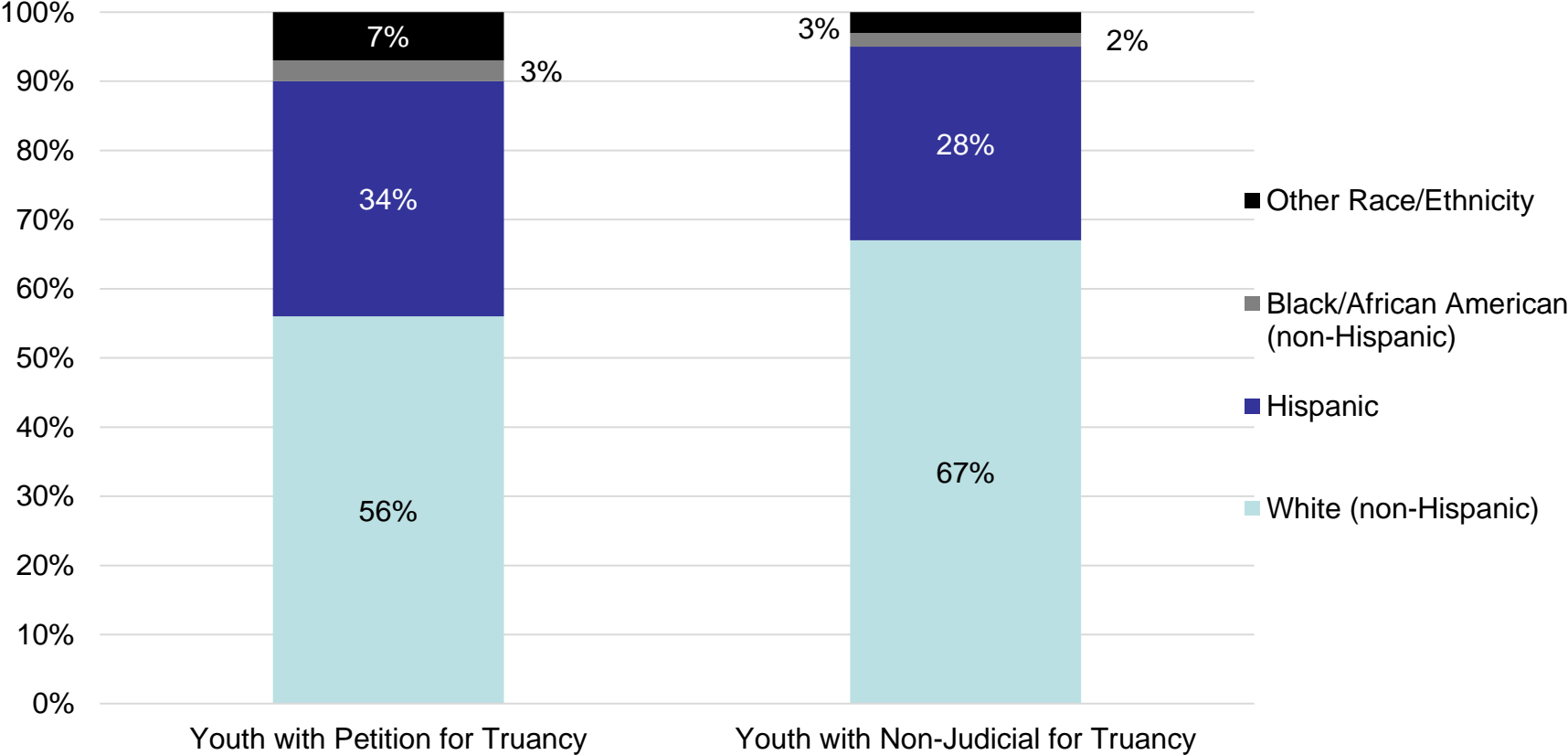
Most Youth in State Custody Were Not There for Felonies



Racial, Ethnic Disparities Grew at Deeper Levels of Juvenile Justice System



Racial, ethnic disparity in the proportion of youth receiving diversion for truancy



Data-driven Reforms: HB 239

Limit secure **detention** use

Standardize and expand **diversion**

Keep low-level **school offenses** out of court

Restrict **probation length**

Narrow **placement** eligibility

Strengthen **supervision** and **treatment**

Augment **responses to noncompliance**

Heighten **oversight**

Reduce **time** in placement

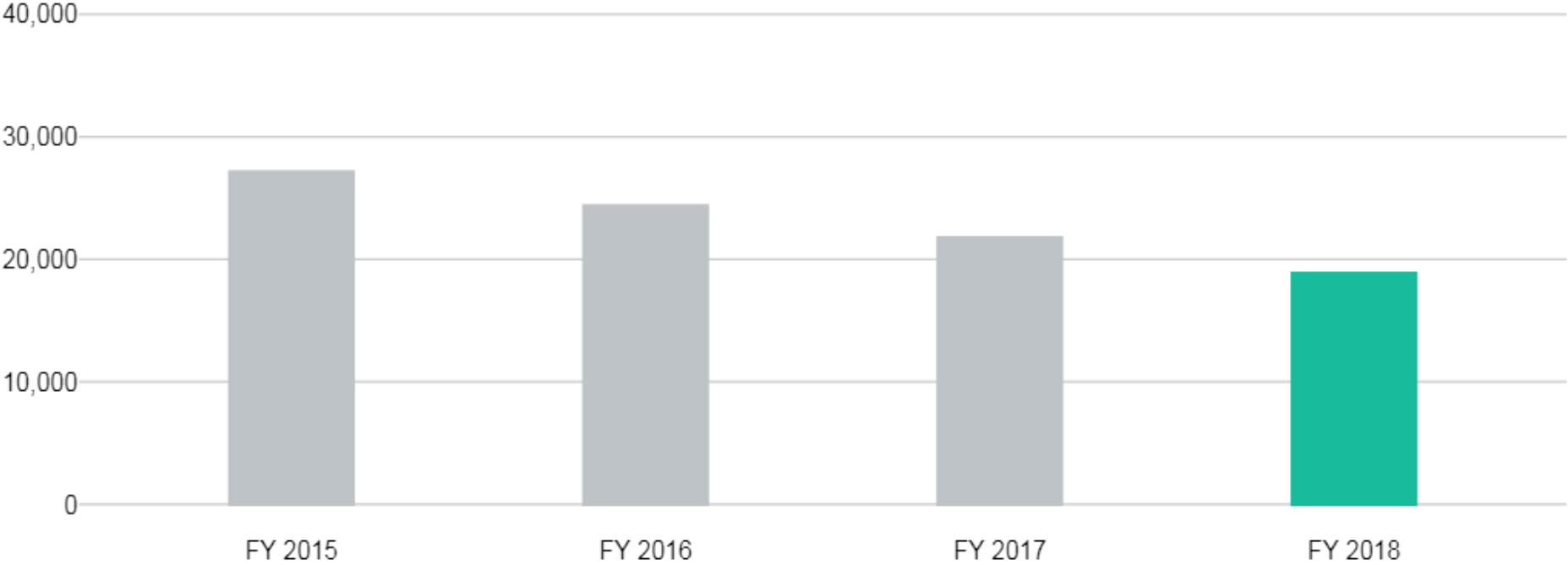
Expand **restorative justice**

Revise **transfer** to adult system

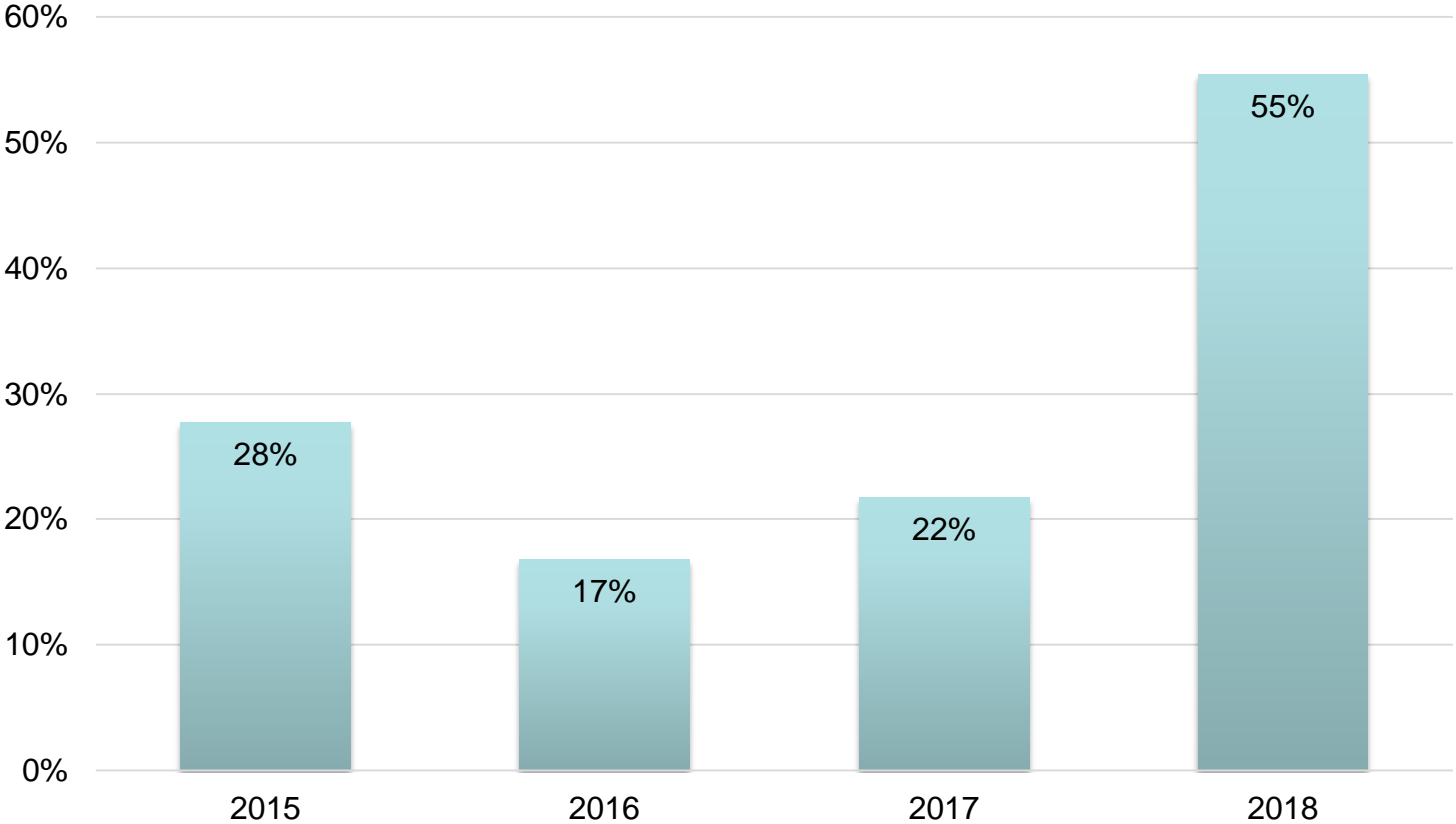
Reinvest in community and EBPs

Fewer youth are entering the juvenile justice system

Figure 3. Referrals to the Juvenile Court Continued to Decline.

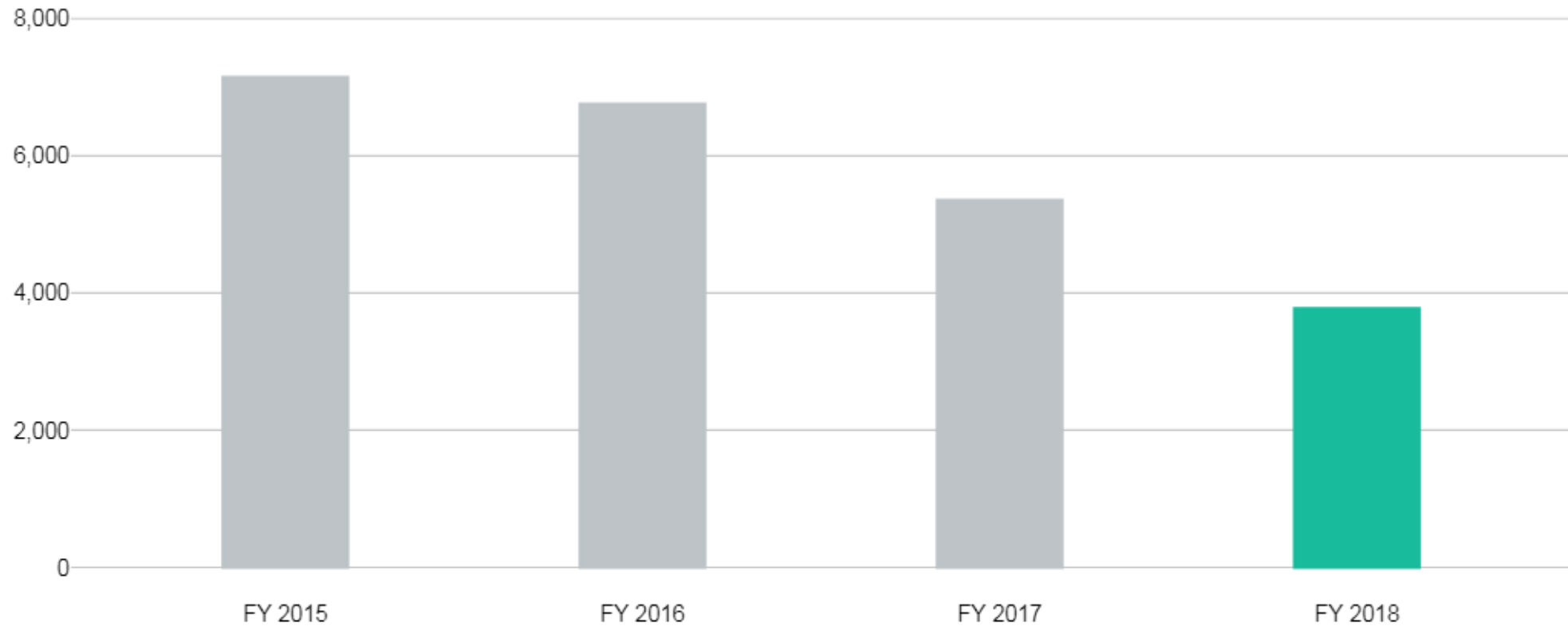


Diversion of Youth from Formal Court Proceedings Rose After H.B. 239

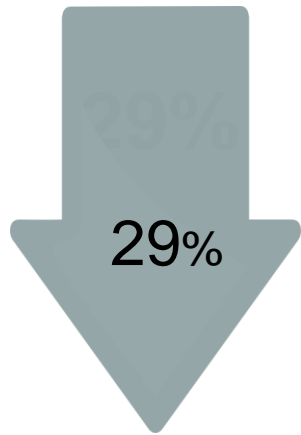


Detention Admissions Down 44% Between FY 2016 and FY 2018

Figure 17. Admissions to Detention Continue to Decline.



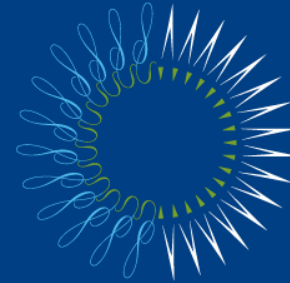
Nonsecure out-of-home placement continues to decline; reinvestment grows



Reduction in Juvenile Justice
Services out-of-home population
first quarter FY16 - FY18



\$18.9 million
Reinvestment
in community and
evidence-based service
expansion



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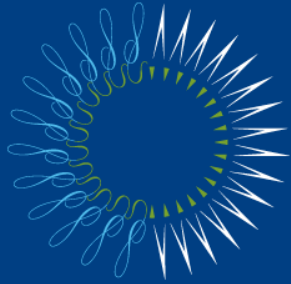
Contacts

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Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys

Nindy Le, Emerging Leader
Utah Board of Juvenile Justice



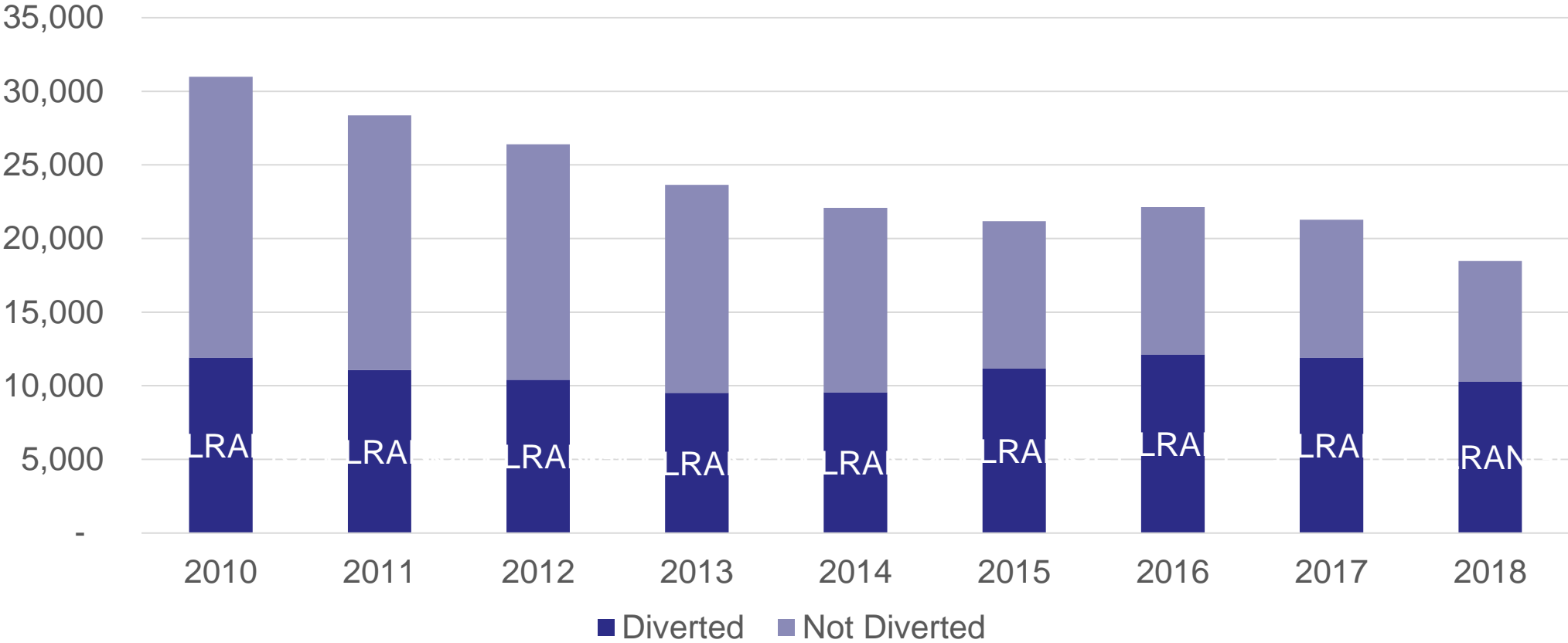
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Juvenile Justice Reform Highlights

**Or...What you can track when you
keep good data**

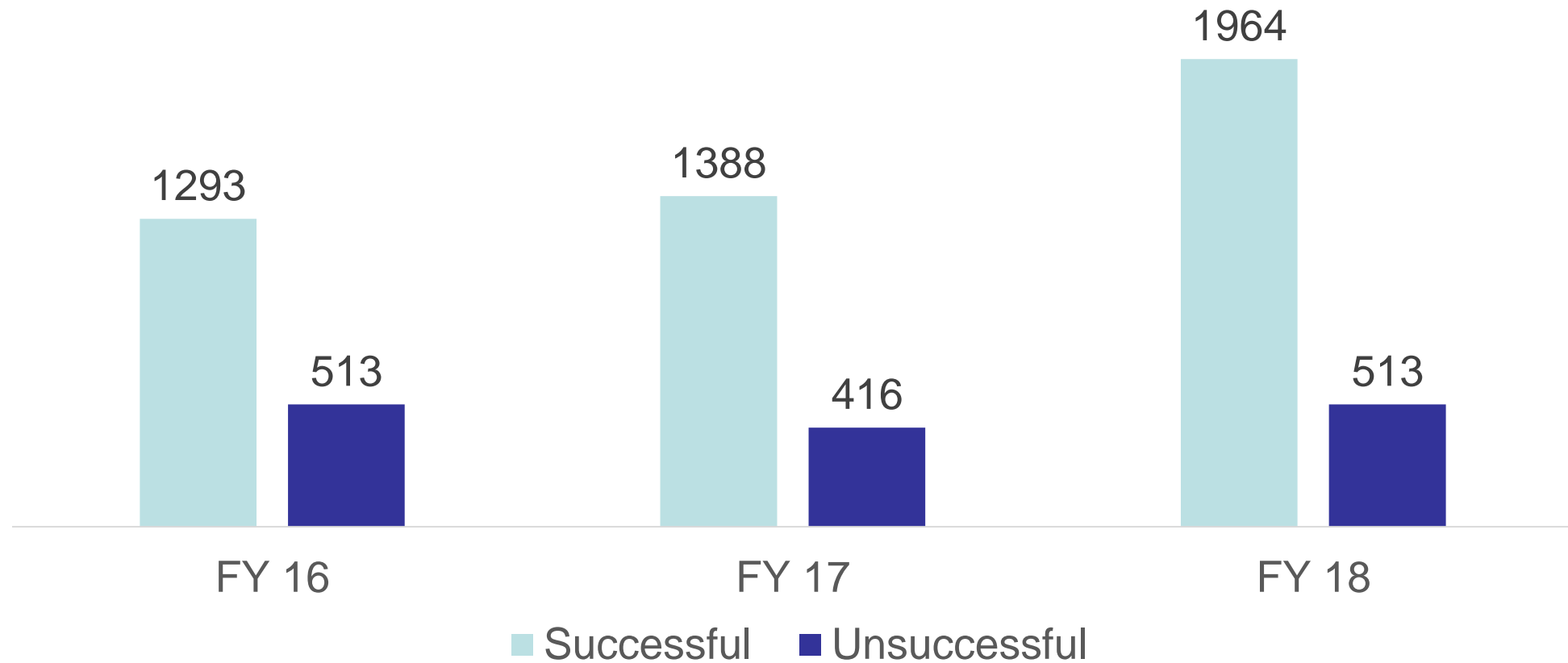
Diversion

As Referral Totals Decline, Youth Diversions in Kentucky are an Increasing Portion of Referrals



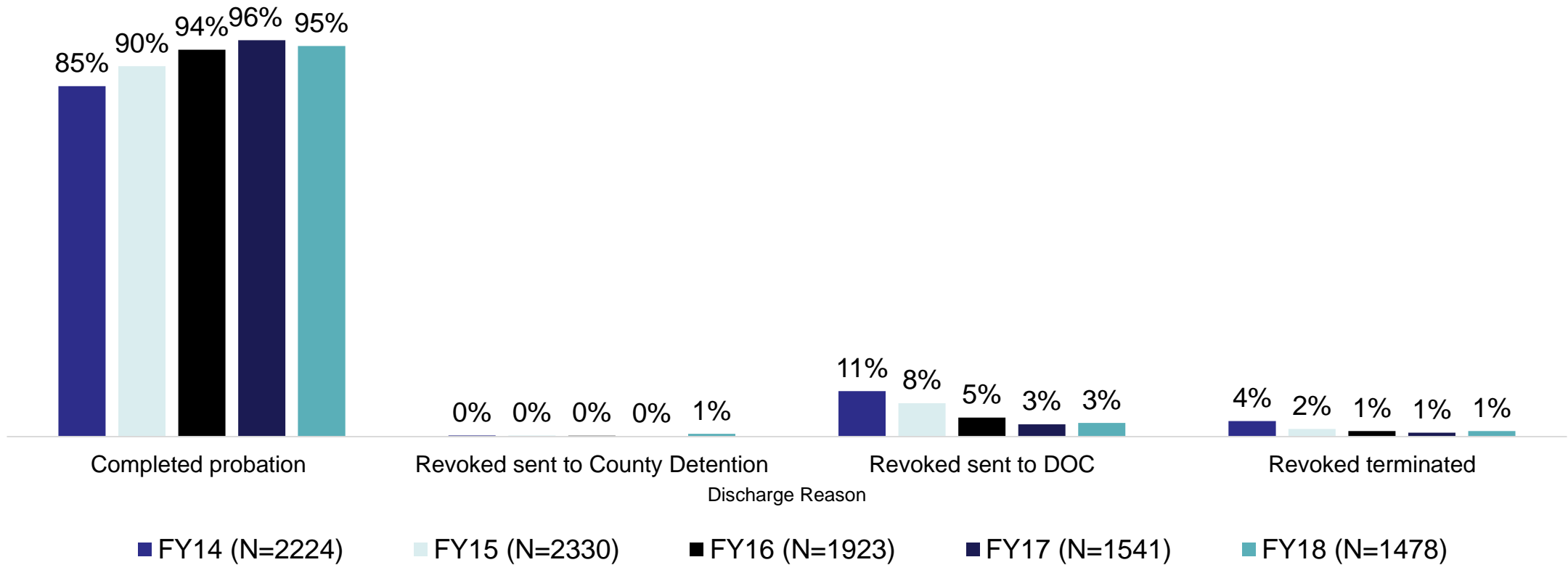
Note: Findings are preliminary and exclude 1,393 referrals for which the use of diversion was unclear (<1% of cases). Unit of analysis is a referral, not individual youth, so youth may appear more than once in the data.

South Dakota's Successful Diversions Increased 2016-2018; Unsuccessful Diversions Remain Steady



Probation

South Dakota Rates of Probation Completion Have Risen

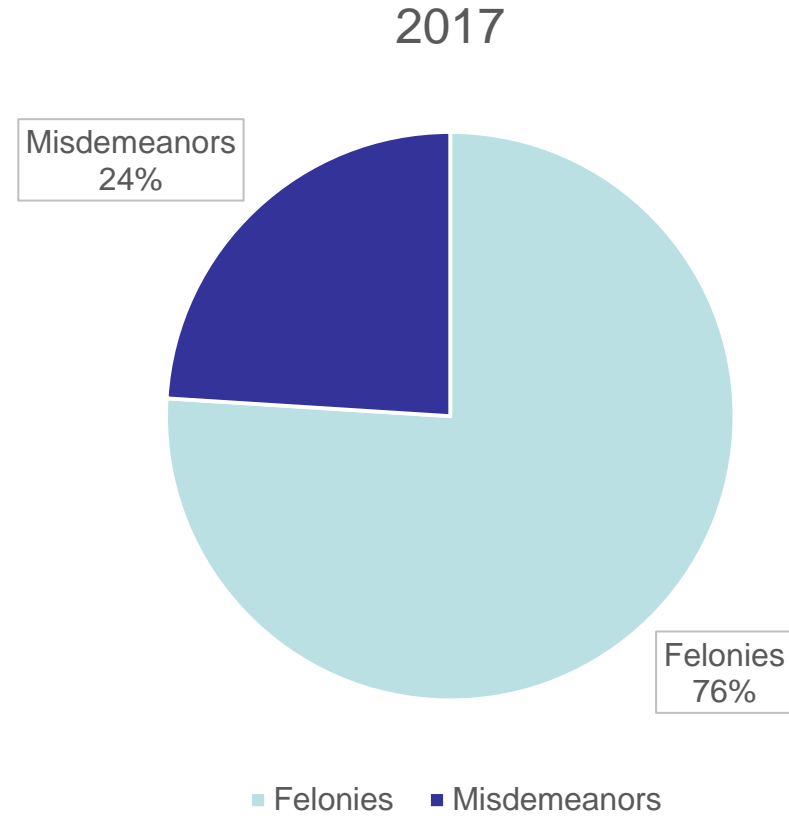
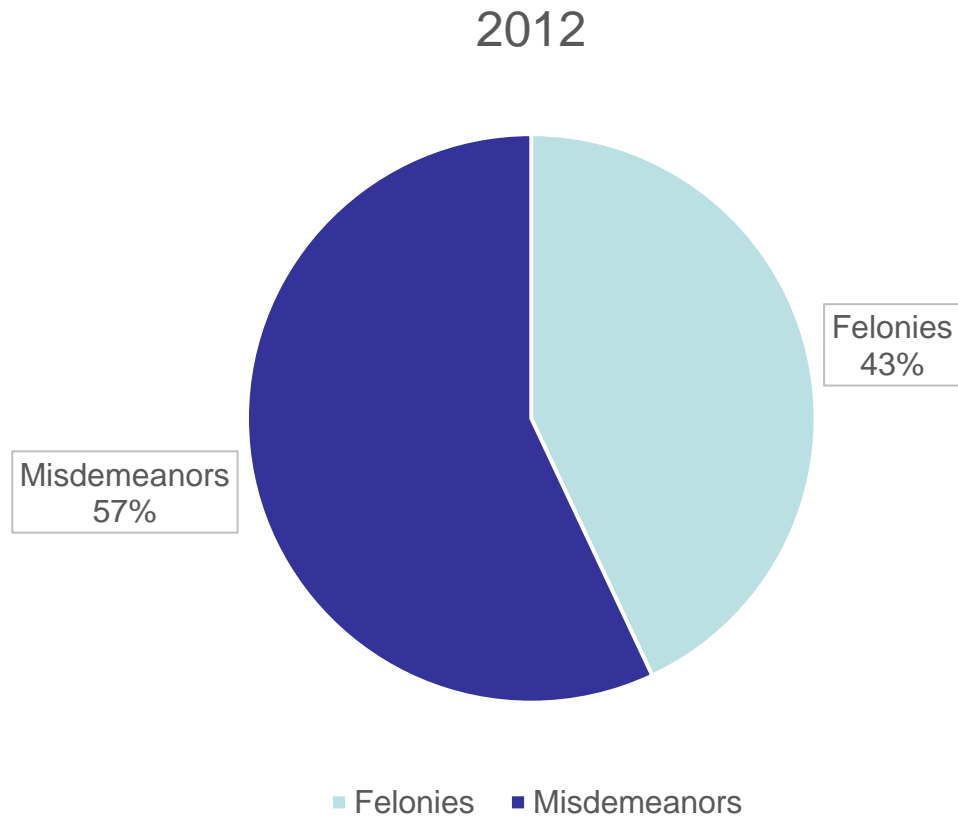


Kansas Earned Discharge Credits Incentivize Probation Compliance

- Policy allows for 7 days off each month of supervision for compliance with conditions of supervision
- First 3 months of implementation July-September 2018
- **777 youth** on community supervision earned a total of **7,308 days** off their probation terms

Commitments

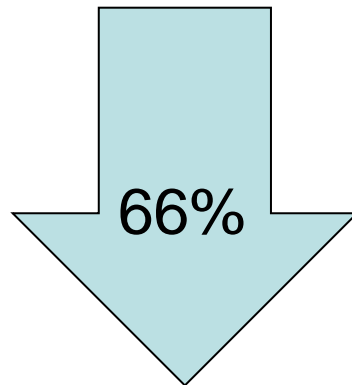
Kentucky: Larger Share of Commitments are Felonies



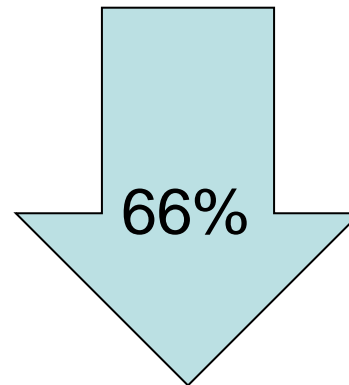
Hawaii, Kansas and South Dakota: Placement Declines Exceed 60%



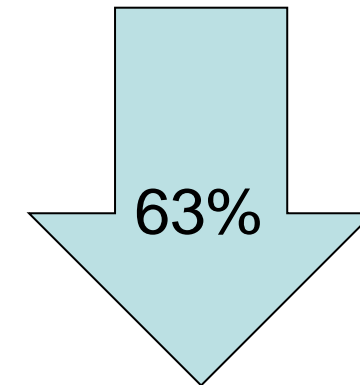
Hawaii
2013-2018



South Dakota
2014-2018



Kansas
2015-2018

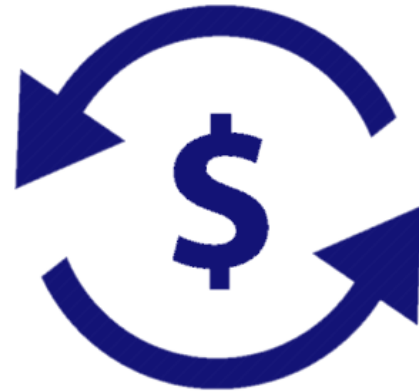


Reinvestment

Georgia: Incentive Grants after 5 years

- Combined state and JJDPA funds (\$8.9 million in FY 2018)
- Participating counties must use objective decision tools
- Support non-incarceration Evidence-Based Programs – most common are Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Thinking for a Change and Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Counties participating: 58
- Confinement reduction in participating counties: 56%
- Youth served to date: 5640
- 99% of kids are medium and high risk

Kansas Evidence-Based Practices Fund



\$30 million
FY2016-2018

Contact

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