

**State of Arizona
Federal Fiscal Year 2024
Three-Year Plan Program Narrative**

**TITLE II FORMULA GRANTS PROGRAM
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT**

Submitted to the:

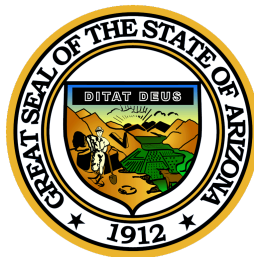
**US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION JULY 2024**

by:

**THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF YOUTH, FAITH AND FAMILY**

and the

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION



Katie Hobbs, Governor
Tonya Hamilton, Cabinet Executive Officer, Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Shayne Johnson, Juvenile Justice Specialist
Cindi Nannetti, Chair, Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission

Prepared by:

Staff
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

FY 2024 FORMULA GRANTS PROGRAM JUSTGRANTS REGISTRATION

The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family registered for solicitation of the OJJDP FY 2024 Title II Formula Grant program on June 12, 2024, through Grants.gov (tracking no. GRANT14181158). In compliance with Executive Order 12372, the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) form was completed on June 12, 2024.

ASSURANCE AND CERTIFICATIONS

The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family has reviewed and accepted the "Assurances and Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsible Matters; and the Drug-Free Workplace Requirement" as outlined in the Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Formula Grants Program Announcement.

PURPOSE AND MISSION

The Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) is the supervisory entity responsible for the state's compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. It serves as the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision as required by [ARS § 8-361](#). Authorized under [Executive Order 2023-20](#), AJJC members work to develop practical initiatives that reduce juvenile delinquency and promote public safety. The Governor appoints members to the AJJC, which is advisory to the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family Agency (GOYFF), the Governor, and the Legislature.

AJJC members work with allied individuals and organizations to improve the circumstances of youth involved with the courts and to build safe sharing best practices. The AJJC is a champion for delinquency prevention, secure detention alternatives, improvement of the juvenile justice system, and gender-specific services for juveniles in Arizona communities.

The purpose of Arizona's Three-Year Plan is to ensure Arizona's compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), set priorities for the Arizona Title II Formula Grant allocation and support services to youth at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system. The plan is based on collecting and reviewing data, including juvenile crime trends data and a statewide survey for stakeholder input.

Requirement (1): The plan shall designate the State agency as designated by the chief executive officer of the State as the sole agency for supervising the preparation and administration of the plan.

Arizona affirms that the Governor has designated GOYFF as the sole agency supervising the preparation and administration of Arizona's three-year state plan.

Requirement (2): The plan shall contain satisfactory evidence that the state agency designated in accordance with paragraph (1) above has or will have authority, by legislation if necessary, to implement such plan in conformity with this [statute].

GOYFF is authorized under [E.O. 2023-20](#) to implement, supervise, and administer Arizona's Three-Year State Plan.

Requirement (3 A): The plan shall provide for an advisory group that consists of not less than 15 and not more than 33 members appointed by the chief executive officer of the State and which meets specific statutory requirements set forth in 34 USC 11133(a)(3)(A)(i)(v).

Arizona confirms that the State Advisory Group (SAG), the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC), has met all statutorily required members per the [E.O. 2023-20](#) and will continue recruiting commissioners as membership changes. Arizona cannot identify any challenges in maintaining a full SAG.

Requirement (3 B): The plan shall provide that the advisory group shall participate in the development and review of the State's juvenile justice plan prior to submission to the supervisory board for final action.

The priorities detailed in Arizona's Three-Year State Plan will be evaluated continuously and continue to inform the Arizona Title II formula grant program until the end of the next funding cycle on September 30, 2027. Arizona affirms that individuals from the SAG have participated in the development and review of Arizona's Three-Year State Plan before submission to the supervisory board for final action.

Requirement (3 C): The plan shall provide that the advisory group shall be afforded the opportunity to review and comment, not later than 45 days after their submission to the advisory group, on all juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications submitted to the State agency designated under paragraph (1) above.

Arizona affirms that the SAG was afforded an opportunity to review and comment on all juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications submitted to the GOYFF no later than 45 days after submission to the advisory group.

Requirement (3 D) (i): The plan shall provide that the advisory group shall, consistent with Title II, advise the State agency designated under paragraph (1) above and its supervisory board.

Arizona affirms that the SAG convenes quarterly and advises GOYFF on Arizona’s Three-Year State Plan and Arizona’s Title II Formula Grant Request for Grant Application (RFGA).

Requirement (3 D) (ii): The plan shall provide that the advisory group shall, consistent with Title II, submit to the chief executive officer and the legislature of the state at least every 2 years a report and necessary recommendations regarding State compliance with the core requirements.

Arizona affirms that the SAG submits to the state’s chief executive officer and legislature a report and necessary recommendations regarding compliance with the core requirements at least every two years. Arizona’s most recent report is on the GOYFF [website](#).

Requirement (3 D) (iii): The plan shall provide that the advisory group shall, consistent with Title II, contact and seek regular input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

Arizona affirms the SAG contacts and seeks regular input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

For example, the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) regularly seeks input from youth through the Youth Exit Survey (YES). It is administered to youth to voluntarily provide feedback on their experiences in the ADJC’s secure campus,

Adobe Mountain School. The YES is a method for evaluating the department's internal operations from the perception of the population served. Results provide valuable input, which is used to inform the agency on performance, improve various programming strategies, increase positive outcomes, and support employee engagement efforts.

The YES is voluntary, anonymous, and is completed online using a link provided by the juvenile's caseworker. The completion rate in FY 23 was 64.9 percent. It focuses on several domains: safety, treatment, medical services, clinical services, pro-social activities, and community transition. Overall, responses rated the various components assessed as overwhelmingly positive, ranging between 74.6 to 96.7 percent. A comments section allowed participants to describe staff who exhibited positive role model qualities, describe changes they have made since being committed to ADJC, highlight who they feel is vital in the community, and discuss any additional matters regarding their time at Adobe Mountain.

Arizona also produces a biennial survey of middle and high school use to measure the prevalence of substance use and other high-risk behaviors in Arizona. The [Arizona Youth Survey](#) provides insight into adolescent youth's current, more frequently committed activities that may threaten their health and safety, which also helps to provide regular input from youth.

Requirement (3 E) (i): The plan shall provide that the advisory group may, consistent with this Title II, advise on the State supervisory board and local criminal justice advisory board composition.

Arizona affirms that the SAG advises GOYFF on Arizona’s Three-Year State Plan and Arizona’s Title II Formula Grant RFGA. The SAG consists of individuals from local criminal justice advisory boards.

Requirement (3 E) (ii): The plan shall provide that the advisory group may, consistent with Title II, review progress and accomplishments of projects funded under the State plan.

Arizona affirms that the SAG reviews the progress and accomplishments of projects funded under Arizona’s Three-Year State Plan. GOYFF collects quarterly subgrantee reports to assess progress and achievements for Title II-funded programming. Subgrantees receive feedback to ensure their implementation is successful. Additionally, Title II Subgrantees update the SAG on performance and programming throughout the grant period.

Requirement (4): The plan shall provide for the active consultation with and participation of units of local government or combinations thereof in the development of the state plan which adequately takes into account the needs and requests of units of local government, except that nothing in the plan requirements, or any regulations promulgated to carry out such requirements, shall be construed to prohibit or impede the state from making grants to, or entering into contracts with, local private agencies or the advisory group.

Arizona affirms active consultation with and participation of local government units, which consider local government needs. During the Arizona Three-Year State Plan drafting process, GOYFF collected survey data through an anonymous survey sent to various juvenile justice stakeholders working in counties or tribal communities. These results are included in [Exhibit F](#).

GOYFF has also collaborated with ADJC and the Arizona Office of the Courts (AOC) to ensure procedures are in place and the necessary data for the Three-Year State

plan is available. Additionally, Title II RFGA applicants must submit a letter from a local government agency declining their participation in the Title II grant to ensure collaboration.

Requirement (5): The plan shall, unless the provisions of this paragraph are waived at the discretion of the Administrator for any State in which the services for delinquent or other youth are organized primarily on a statewide basis, provide that at least 66 2/3 per centum of funds received under section 222 reduced by the percentage (if any) specified by the State under the authority of paragraph (25) and excluding funds made available to the state advisory group under section 222(d), shall be expended A. through programs of units of local government or combinations thereof, to the extent the programs are consistent with the State plan; B. through programs of local private agencies consistent with the state plan, except that direct funding of any local private agency by a State shall be permitted only if such agency requests such funding after it has applied for and been denied funding by any unit of local government of combination thereof; C. to provide funds for programs of Indian Tribes that agree to attempt to comply with the core requirements applicable to the detention and confinement of juveniles, an amount that bears the same ratio to the aggregate amount to be expended through programs referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B) as the population under 18 years of age in the geographical areas in which such tribes perform such functions bears to the State population under 18 years of age.

Arizona does not have a specific policy documenting the 66 and $\frac{2}{3}$ percent policy. However, Arizona affirms that it will meet the requirements for passthrough funds under 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a), Section 223(a)(5), as per the federal solicitation. Arizona affirms the state follows all policies per each federal statute.

Requirement (6): The plan shall provide for an equitable distribution of the assistance received under section 222 within the State, including in rural areas.

Arizona affirms that it will provide for an equitable distribution of the assistance received under section 222 [34 U.S.C. § 11132] within the State, including in rural areas. Arizona intentionally separates and evaluates Title II RFGA applications based

on service area. A review committee will evaluate applications and select those deemed acceptable for an award per [A.R.S. §41-2702](#) (F) and (G).

Requirement (7 A): The plan shall provide for an analysis of juvenile delinquency problems in, and the juvenile delinquency control and delinquency prevention needs (including educational needs) of, the State (including any geographical area in which an Indian tribe has jurisdiction), a description of the services to be provided, and a description of performance goals and priorities, including a specific statement of the manner in which programs are expected to meet the identified juvenile crime problems (including the joining of gangs that commit crimes) and juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs (including educational needs) of the State.

Arizona has provided an analysis of juvenile justice delinquency problems, juvenile delinquency control, and delinquency prevention needs in [Exhibit A](#). Additionally, Arizona describes services, performance goals, and state priorities in [Exhibit B](#).

Requirement (7 B) (i): The plan shall contain an analysis of gender specific services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency, including the types of such services available and the need for such services.

Arizona continues to review the availability of gender-based services within juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment programs to address the needs of female youth, which can be overlooked as programming tends to target court-involved males. As seen in other jurisdictions, there continues to be a need for gender-specific treatment beds to provide respite and reduce juvenile justice system involvement. Arizona's Title II grant currently funds programs that offer targeted prevention and treatment services to juveniles based on their gender identification.

The [Arizona Juvenile Detention Standards](#) outline specific policies and procedures, including intentional services to support LGBTQAI+ youth.

Requirement (7 B) (ii): The plan shall contain the inclusion of needed gender specific services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency.

Arizona is committed to evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, and trauma-responsive programming that ensures Arizona youth receive the support they need to be successful. Arizona prevention and treatment services continue to meet the needs of each juvenile on an individual basis. For example, ADJC offers an 11-week program specifically for female juvenile offenders who have been victims of sex trafficking to provide group support and education.

Requirement (7 B) (iii): The plan shall contain the inclusion of needed services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency in rural areas.

The challenges for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency are more pronounced in Arizona’s rural communities. Arizona’s two largest metropolitan counties (Maricopa and Pima) have greater capacities in terms of types of services and providers but have challenges with transportation and accessibility. Challenges for the remaining 13 rural counties extend beyond these issues and include fiscal limitations, transportation, technology, and lack of capacity in terms of services and providers. The entire state faces geographical (driving distance) challenges. Arizona’s juvenile justice system is committed to meeting the needs of rural juveniles through evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, and trauma-responsive programming that ensures that young people are successful.

Requirement (7 B) (iv): The plan shall contain the inclusion of alternatives to detention for status offenders, survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, and others, where appropriate, such as specialized or problem-solving courts or diversion to home-based or community-based services or treatment for those youth in need of mental health, substance abuse, or co-occurring disorder services at the time such juveniles first come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Arizona has implemented various programs to support juveniles who first encounter the juvenile justice system. These include alternatives to detention, specialized courts, and treatment for youth within ADJC. **Alternatives to Detention:** Since 2011, Arizona has been committed to system-wide improvements and evidence-based practices by implementing Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) statewide. Arizona is now officially recognized as a JDAI state replication site. The JDAI participating counties collectively represent over 80% of the overall referrals to the juvenile justice system and over 80% of the juvenile detention population. **Specialized Court:** STRENGTH court, which stands for Succeed Through Resilience Empower New Growth Through Hope, was first introduced in the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County in 2018 and has since evolved to help juvenile victims of sex trafficking using a victim-centered trauma approach, building trust with each juvenile. The STRENGTH Court judges see youth with delinquency or dependency cases. **Corrections Treatment:** Each juvenile within the ADJC participates in Reception, Assessment, and Classification (RAC). While in RAC, youth participate in evaluations to determine their treatment needs. These evaluations cover several areas, including education, behavioral health, substance abuse, aggression, and attitudes toward delinquent behavior.

Requirement (7 B) (v): The plan shall contain strategies to reduce the number of children housed in secure detention and corrections facilities who are awaiting placement in residential treatment programs.

Arizona has increased access to detention alternatives for status offenders, sex trafficking victims, and other youth who are considered to be low-risk. Several county

detention centers have closed, thus requiring these jurisdictions to research innovative ways to provide needed services and accountability to these youth so that they can remain in their communities and, therefore, encounter minimal social and academic disruption. Teen centers are open in two rural counties that no longer house detention centers; both provide pro-social activities that keep youth engaged in positive relationships. These facilities also accommodate overnight respite periods that provide families in crisis a short break to stabilize and access needed resources. Other counties that operate juvenile detention facilities have repurposed unused detention space to manage short-term detention alternative programs where youth who are not eligible for detention can be referred. These facilities provide non-secure short-term respite and resources to low-level offenders instead of incarceration. Long-term residential services are available as well. Mingus Mountain Academy, a residential treatment group home and school, serves commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and provides the Empowerment over Exploitation program in a non-secure, protected wilderness environment. Youth are often referred by the juvenile court after a finding of victimization has been established.

While community responses address the needs of status offenders, much more work must be done to ensure all areas of the state have access to these programs that improve outcomes for low-risk youth, increase public safety, and save public dollars. The GOYFF will work with the AJJC to facilitate meaningful discussion and ideas for replicating successful programs. AJJC will also continue to monitor the use and refinement of the state's validated detention screening tool, which directs intake staff to refer youth to alternative detention programs. Since this work closely aligns with the

commission's responsibility to ensure the state complies with the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), alternatives to detention will continue to be a priority until all jurisdictions have ample resources to provide these services.

Requirement (7 B) (vi): The plan shall contain strategies to engage family members, where appropriate, in the design and delivery of juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment services, particularly post-placement.

For juveniles committed to ADJC, re-entry case planning begins on day one of arrival. The Arizona Youth Assessment System (AZYAS) Re-entry Tool assesses the juvenile's various needs and guides the juvenile's case plan. These needs are based on seven domains: juvenile justice history, family and living arrangements, peers and social support, education and employment, pro-social skill sets, substance abuse, mental health, personality, attitudes, values, and beliefs.

The youth is assigned a parole officer (PO) and a youth transition specialist (YTS). Within the first 30 days, the PO or YTS will conduct an in-home assessment with the guardian to determine the feasibility of returning home. If the home is adequate, the PO will maintain contact with the guardian to ensure the home remains suitable. Placement options are explored if the in-home option is deemed unsuitable, and how to mitigate the home's suitability is explored.

During re-entry, the youth's case plan is regularly reviewed by the PO and other providers involved in the transition process. Child family team meetings are conducted routinely to allow for updates on the youth's progress and to discuss any potential modifications to the case plan.

Requirement (7 B) (vii): The plan shall contain strategies for using community-based services to respond to the needs of at-risk youth or youth who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

A review of current programs provided for youth in detention will be conducted, along with a study of promising detention-based strategies. This information will be used to support evidence-based and trauma-informed programs. The state will also review its current collaboration status between juvenile justice and child welfare systems to ensure both sectors address the needs of crossover youth.

The state will work with community corrections, youth-serving agencies, and families to ensure a continuum of care for youth transitioning back into their communities. The state will collaborate with partnering agencies to procure additional funding for effective reentry services that engage parents and reduce recidivism.

[ARS §§ 41-2804](#) and [41-2818](#) authorize the movement of youth from the secure setting of Adobe Mountain School to the community for continued supervision and services. Release into the community occurs after the Department determines that a youth is not a threat to public safety and that their continued treatment, rehabilitation, and education in a less restrictive setting are consistent with the public's interest.

Additionally, the AOC [Juvenile Justice Services Division](#) (JJSD) is responsible for the effective administration of juvenile justice programs for delinquent youth in coordination with the juvenile courts. Activities are consistent with constitutional, statutory, and administrative requirements focused on rehabilitation. Programs include delinquency prevention, treatment, probation, statewide automation, and other related activities.

Requirement (7 B) (viii): The plan shall contain strategies to promote evidence-based and trauma-informed programs and practices.

Arizona has provided service strategies, including promoting evidence-based and trauma-informed programs and practices in [Exhibit C](#).

Requirement (7 B) (ix) (I): The plan shall eliminate the use of restraints of known pregnant juveniles housed in secure juvenile detention and correction facilities, during labor, delivery, and post partum recovery, unless credible, reasonable grounds exist to believe the detainee presents an immediate and serious threat of hurting herself, staff, or others.

Juvenile detention and corrections agencies utilize policies that address restraint procedures for pregnant juveniles. ADJC's policies 4045 and 3090.10 address restrictions on using restraints for transported pregnant juveniles, instructing officers to use restraints in the "least restrictive manner" when required to prevent escape, self-injury, or harm to others. These policies explicitly prohibit the use of mechanical restraints on transporting juveniles for delivery, during active labor or post-partum recovery unless present medical staff requests the use of restraints when there is a significant risk of escape and restraints are needed to maintain the safety of the juvenile and the unborn child, or the agency director "makes an individualized determination that the juvenile presents an extraordinary circumstance." When restraints are necessary, the officer shall apply the least restrictive restraints necessary. The officer shall prepare an incident report as soon as possible documenting the extraordinary need for restraints and ensuring that the medical director or designee is consulted to approve the use of restraints.

Requirement (7 B) (ix) (II): The plan shall eliminate the use of abdominal restraints, leg and ankle restraints, wrist restraints behind the back, and four point restraints on known pregnant juveniles, unless 1. credible, reasonable grounds exist to believe the detainee presents an immediate and serious threat

of hurting herself, staff, or others; or 2. reasonable grounds exist to believe the detainee presents an immediate and credible risk of escape that cannot be reasonably minimized through any other method.

Juvenile detention and corrections agencies utilize policies that address restraint procedures for pregnant juveniles. ADJC policies 4045 and 3090.10 address restrictions on using restraints for transported pregnant juveniles, instructing officers to use restraints in the “least restrictive manner” when required to prevent escape, self-injury, and harm to others.

ADJC requires the appropriate staff to receive training on handling the behaviors of juveniles when they are in a crisis. The department’s policy 4058.02 references the Handle with Care (HWC) program that staff are trained on to address juveniles who do not respond with progressive intervention and pose a threat to do harm. HWC training is provided by certified instructors and is mandated for various secure facility employees to teach self-protection and restraint skills. The HWC training equips staff with skills necessary for preventative verbal de-escalation and, when required, physical intervention to manage behavioral emergencies safely and effectively.

Requirement (8): The plan shall provide for the coordination and maximum utilization of evidence based and promising juvenile delinquency programs, programs operated by public and private agencies and organizations, and other related programs (such as education, special education, recreation, health, and welfare programs) in the State.

GOYFF facilitates a competitive RFGA every three years. The RFGA includes several program purpose areas developed through collaboration between GOYFF and AJJC that support the implementation of comprehensive, community-based programming to improve outcomes for the state’s at-risk and delinquent youth. Applicants must be

dedicated to implementing evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising-practice programs that have been empirically demonstrated successful with the target population and facilitate a trauma-informed approach to increase resiliency and reduce toxic stress. GOYFF collaborates with different Arizona agencies to help facilitate the RFGA. [Exhibit E](#) provides details on the roles of each Arizona agency.

Requirement (9): The plan shall provide that not less than 75 percent of the funds available to the State under section 222, other than funds made available to the State advisory group under section 222(d), whether expended directly by the State, by the unit of local government, or by a combination thereof, or through grants and contracts with public or private nonprofit agencies, shall be used for, with priority in funding given to entities meeting the criteria for evidence based or promising programs detailed through (A) (W) (“Program Areas”).

Arizona assures that not less than 75% of the total Title II funds provided to the state, less the amount set aside for the SAG, shall be used through grants or contracts with priority in funding given to entities meeting the criteria for evidence-based or promising programs detailed through Program Areas.

Requirement (10): The plan shall provide for the development of an adequate research, training, and evaluation capacity within the State.

Arizona will continue to partner with institutions of higher education to develop adequate research, training, and evaluation scopes of work on an as-needed basis.

Previous training projects include AOC JJSD collaboration with Arizona State University (ASU) School of Social Work, [Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research](#) (STIR) on staff and stakeholder education, and a probation officer training series to better identify juveniles who have been sex trafficked.

Requirement (11) (A): The plan shall, in accordance with rules issued by the Administrator, provide that a juvenile shall not be placed in a secure detention

facility or a secure correctional facility, if (i) the juvenile is charged with or has committed an offense that would not be criminal if committed by an adult, excluding (I) a juvenile who is charged with or has committed a violation of section 922(x)(2) of title 18, United States Code, or of a similar State law; (II) a juvenile who is charged with or has committed a violation of a valid court order issued and reviewed in accordance with paragraph (23); and (III) a juvenile who is held in accordance with the Interstate Compact on Juveniles as enacted by the State; or (ii) the juvenile (I) is not charged with any offense; and (II) (aa) is an alien; or (bb) is alleged to be dependent, neglected, or abused.

As documented in the [State Of Arizona Compliance Monitoring Policies And Procedures Manual](#), Arizona statute allows for status offenders to be legally detained in secure juvenile detention centers in certain instances. Changes in policies and procedures to align with best practices have dramatically reduced the detention and confinement of juveniles not charged with a delinquent or criminal offense. In Arizona, status offenses include truancy (skipping school), incorrigible (ungovernable), curfew, tobacco, and runaway. Status offenses do not include juveniles accused of alcohol charges. (See [ARS 4-244](#)).

Compliance with the DSO requirement set forth in [Section 223\(a\)\(11\)\(A\)](#) of the JJDPa is maintained by diverting status offenders from secure detention facilities in nearly all circumstances. While Arizona will continue to utilize available resources, including validated detention screening tools, detention alternative programs, and diversion to minimize the detention and confinement of status offenders, monitoring compliance with the DSO requirement will be maintained throughout the state.

The Compliance Monitor will collect and verify data on every juvenile placed in secure facilities per Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) rules and regulations. Data on all juveniles placed securely is provided monthly or according to the agency's designated reporting frequency.

Requirement (11) (B): The plan shall require that (i) unless a court finds, after a hearing and in writing, that it is in the interest of justice, juveniles awaiting trial or other legal process who are treated as adults for purposes of prosecution in criminal 12 court and housed in a secure facility (I) shall not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates; and (II) except as provided in paragraph (13), may not be held in any jail or lockup for adults; (ii) in determining under clause (i) whether it is in the interest of justice to permit a juvenile to be held in any jail or lockup for adults, or have sight or sound contact with adult inmates, a court shall consider (I) the age of the juvenile; (II) the physical and mental maturity of the juvenile; (III) the present mental state of the juvenile, including whether the juvenile presents an imminent risk of harm to the juvenile; (IV) the nature and circumstances of the alleged offense; (V) the juvenile’s history of prior delinquent acts; (VI) the relative ability of the available adult and juvenile detention facilities to not only meet the specific needs of the juvenile but also to protect the safety of the public as well as other detained youth; and (VII) any other relevant factor; and (iii) if a court determines under clause (i) that it is in the interest of justice to permit a juvenile to be held in any jail or lockup for adults (I) the court shall hold a hearing not less frequently than once every 30 days, or in the case of a rural jurisdiction, not less frequently than once every 45 days, to review whether it is still in the interest of justice to permit the juvenile to be so held or have such sight or sound contact; and (II) the juvenile shall not be held in any jail or lockup for adults, or permitted to have sight or sound contact with adult inmates, for more than 180 days, unless the court, in writing, determines there is good cause for an extension or the juvenile expressly waives this limitation.

As documented in the [State Of Arizona Compliance Monitoring Policies And Procedures Manual](#), Arizona will also work to ensure compliance with the requirement under 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11)(B), by collaborating with the criminal court system to develop a process for tracking minors charged as adults. This plan will create standard protocols based on the pending guidance from OJJDP. In addition to the first three core protections, the state will continue its work on the fourth requirement to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. AJJC will staff the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup to promote equity in the juvenile justice system, track statewide efforts that target this issue, and report to OJJDP on the state’s progress.

Requirement (12): The plan shall provide that (A) juveniles alleged to be or found to be delinquent or juveniles within the purview of paragraph (11) will not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have sight or sound contact with adult inmates; and (B) there is in effect in the State a policy that requires individuals who work with both such juveniles and such adult inmates, including in collocated facilities, have been trained and certified to work with juveniles.

As documented in the [State Of Arizona Compliance Monitoring Policies And Procedures Manual](#), Arizona statute [ARS 8-305](#) requires that juveniles placed in a jail or lockup in which adults are confined must be separated from adult inmates or suspects, and no sight or sound contact between the juvenile and any charged or convicted adult is permitted. This statute applies to juveniles charged as adults and delinquent status offenders.

Requirement (13): The plan shall provide that no juvenile will be detained or confined in any jail or lockup for adults except (A) juveniles who are accused of nonstatus offenses and who are detained in such jail or lockup for a period not to exceed 6 hours (i) for processing or release; (ii) while awaiting transfer to a juvenile facility; or (iii) in which period such juveniles make a court appearance; and only if such juveniles do not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates and only if there is in effect in the State a policy that requires individuals who work with both such juveniles and adult inmates in collocated facilities have been trained and certified to work with juveniles; (B) juveniles who are accused of nonstatus offenses, who are awaiting an initial court appearance that will occur within 48 hours after being taken into custody (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays), and who are detained in a jail or lockup (i) in which (I) such juveniles do not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates; and (II) there is in effect in the State a policy that requires individuals who work with both such juveniles and adults inmates in collocated facilities have been trained and certified to work with juveniles; and (ii) that (I) is located outside a metropolitan statistical area (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget) and has no existing acceptable alternative placement available; (II) is located where conditions of distance to be traveled or the lack of highway, road, or transportation do not allow for court appearances within 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) so that a brief (not to exceed an additional 48 hours) delay is excusable; or (III) is located where conditions of safety exist (such as severe adverse, life threatening weather conditions that do not allow for reasonably safe travel), in which case the time for an appearance

may be delayed until 24 hours after the time that such conditions allow for reasonable safe travel.

As documented in the [State Of Arizona Compliance Monitoring Policies And Procedures Manual](#), [ARS 8-305\(E\)](#) prohibits the detention of status offenders in a jail or lockup for adults and requires that delinquent offenders held in a jail or lockup are separated from adult inmates and detained no longer than six hours. Juveniles held in facilities that detain adults use separate or time-phased joint-use locations to avoid sight or sound contact between both populations. These locations are identified during the onsite inspection and documented in the inspection report. All jails and lockups that may detain juveniles must report to the Compliance Monitor all juveniles held, with a description of their charges, the date/time held, and the date/time released. This documentation allows the state to evaluate whether the juvenile is held in compliance with the jail removal requirement.

Requirement (14): The plan shall provide for an effective system of monitoring jails, lockups, detention facilities, and correctional facilities to ensure that the core requirements are met, and for annual reporting of the results of such monitoring to the Administrator, except that such reporting requirements shall not apply in the case of a State which is in compliance with the other requirements of this paragraph, which is in compliance with the requirements in paragraphs (11) and (12), and which has enacted legislation which conforms to such requirements and which contains sufficient enforcement mechanisms to ensure that such legislation will be administered effectively.

As documented in the [State Of Arizona Compliance Monitoring Policies and Procedures](#), Arizona will maintain an effective system of monitoring jails, lockups, detention facilities, and correctional facilities to ensure that the core requirements are met and for annual reporting of the results of such monitoring to the Administrator.

Requirement (15): The plan shall implement policy, practice, and system improvement strategies at the State, territorial, local, and tribal levels, as

applicable, to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, by A. establishing or designating existing coordinating bodies, composed of juvenile justice stakeholders, (including representatives of the educational system) at the State, local, or tribal levels, to advise efforts by States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes to reduce racial and ethnic disparities; B. identifying and analyzing data on race and ethnicity at decision points in State, local, or tribal juvenile justice systems to determine which such points create racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system; and C. developing and implementing a work plan that includes measurable objectives for policy, practice, or other system changes, based on the needs identified in the data collection and analysis under subparagraph (B).

Arizona has addressed this requirement within the separate application document titled 2024 R/ED plan.

Requirement (16): The plan shall provide an assurance that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, family income, and disability.

Arizona assures that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, family income, and disability. This is further documented in [ADJC's](#) and [AOC's](#) strategic plan.

Requirement (17): The plan shall provide assurance that consideration will be given to and that assistance will be available for approaches designed to strengthen the families of delinquent and other youth to prevent juvenile delinquency (which approaches should include the involvement of grandparents or other extended family members when possible and appropriate, and the provision of family counseling during the incarceration of juvenile family members and coordination of family services when appropriate and feasible).

Arizona assures that approaches designed to strengthen families and prevent juvenile delinquency will be considered and that assistance will be available.

Requirement (18): The plan shall provide for procedures to be established for protecting the rights of recipients of services and for ensuring appropriate

privacy with regard to records relating to such services provided to any individual under the state plan.

[Exhibit D](#) affirms that Arizona has met this requirement and will continue to prioritize appropriate privacy regarding records retention.

Requirement (19): The plan shall provide assurances that: A. any assistance provided under this Act will not cause the displacement (including a partial displacement, such as a reduction in the hours of non overtime work, wages, or employment benefits) of any currently employed employee; B. activities assisted under this Act will not impair an existing collective bargaining relationship, contract for services, or collective bargaining agreement; and C. no such activity that would be inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement shall be undertaken without the written concurrence of the labor organization involved.

Arizona affirms that any assistance provided under the Title II Formula Grant Program will not cause the displacement of any currently employed employee; activities assisted under the Title II Formula Grant Program will not impair an existing collective bargaining relationship, contract for services, or collective bargaining agreement; and no such activity that would be inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement shall be undertaken without the written concurrence of the labor organization involved.

Requirement (20): The plan shall provide for such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures necessary to assure prudent use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received under this title.

Arizona affirms that it meets the requirement to provide such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures necessary to assure prudent use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received under Title II Formula Grant allocations.

Requirement (21): The plan shall provide reasonable assurances that federal funds made available under this part for any period will be so used as to supplement and increase (but not supplant) the level of the State, local, tribal,

and other non Federal funds that would in the absence of such Federal funds be made available for the programs described in this part, and will in no event replace such state, local, tribal, and other non-Federal funds.

Arizona affirms that it complies with the requirement to provide reasonable assurance that federal funds made available under this part will be so used to supplement and increase (but not supplant) the level of the State, local, tribal, and other non-Federal funds that would in the absence of such Federal funds be made available for the programs described in this part, and will in no event replace such state, local, tribal, and other non-Federal funds.

Requirement (22 A): The plan shall provide that the State Agency designated under paragraph (1) will to the extent practicable, give priority in funding to programs and activities that are based on rigorous, systematic, and objective research that is scientifically based.

Arizona affirms that it, to the extent practicable, will give priority funding to programs and activities that are based on rigorous, systematic, and objective research that is scientifically based.

Requirement (22 B): The plan shall provide from time to time, but not less than annually, a review of its plan and submit to the Administrator an analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and activities carried out under the plan, and any modifications in the plan, including the survey of State and local needs, that it considers necessary.

Arizona affirms that the state will annually review its plan and submit to the Administrator an analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and activities carried out under the plan, and any modifications in the plan, including the survey of State and local needs, that it considers necessary.

Requirement (22 C): The plan shall not expend funds to carry out a program if the recipient of funds who carried out such program during the preceding 2 year period fails to demonstrate, before the expiration of such 2 year period, that

such program achieved substantial success in achieving the goals specified in the application submitted by such recipient to the state agency.

Arizona assures that it will not expend funds to carry out a program if the recipient of funds who carried out such program during the preceding 2-year period fails to demonstrate, before the expiration of such 2-year period, that such program achieved substantial success in achieving the goals specified in the application submitted by such recipient to the state agency.

Requirement (23): The plan shall provide that if a juvenile is taken into custody for violating a valid court order issued for committing a status offense: A. an appropriate public agency shall be promptly notified that such status offender is held in custody for violating such order; B. not later than 24 hours during which such status offender is so held, an authorized representative of such agency shall interview, in person, such status offender; C. not later than 48 hours during which such status offender is so held such representative shall submit an assessment to the court that issued such order, regarding the immediate needs of the status offender; D. there are procedures in place to ensure that any status offender held in a secure detention facility or correctional facility pursuant to a court order described in this paragraph does not remain in custody longer than 7 days or the length of time authorized by the court, whichever is shorter.

As documented in the [State Of Arizona Compliance Monitoring Policies And Procedures](#), Arizona law allows minors charged as adults to be legally detained in a juvenile or adult detention facility based on criteria listed in section [13-501](#). During the advisory hearing, the court will determine the most appropriate placement. The criteria listed in [ARS 8-305](#) are used to make this decision.

Requirement (24): The plan shall provide an assurance that if the State receives under section 222 for any fiscal year an amount that exceeds 105 percent of the amount the State received under such section for fiscal year 2000, all of such excess shall be expended through or for programs that are part of a comprehensive and coordinated community system of services.

Arizona affirms that if the state receives an amount that exceeds 105 percent of the amount received under this section in FY 2000, all such excess would be expended through or for programs as part of a comprehensive and coordinated community system of services.

Requirement (25): The plan shall specify a percentage (if any), not to exceed 5 percent, of funds received by the State under section 222 (other than funds made available to the State advisory group under section 222(d)) that the State will reserve for expenditure by the State to provide incentive grants to units of general local government that reduce the caseload of probation officers within such units.

Requirement 25 is not applicable to Arizona. No funds are being set aside for this purpose.

Requirement (26): Then plan shall provide that the state, to the maximum extent practicable, and in accordance with confidentiality concerns, will implement a system to ensure that if a juvenile is before a court in the juvenile justice system, public child welfare records (including child protective services records) relating to such juvenile that are on file in the geographical area under the jurisdiction of such court will be made known to such court so as to provide for: A. data in child abuse or neglect reports relating to juveniles entering the juvenile justice system with a prior reported history of arrest, court intake, probation and parole, juvenile detention, and corrections; and B. a plan to use the data described in subparagraph (A) to provide necessary services for the treatment of such victims of child abuse or neglect.

Arizona affirms that the state has implemented a system to ensure that if a juvenile is before a court in the juvenile justice system, public child protective records relating to that juvenile that are on file will be made known to such court. For additional information, please reference the [Arizona Information Sharing Guide](#).

Requirement (27): The plan shall provide assurances that juvenile offenders whose placement is funded through section 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672) receive the protections specified in section 471 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 671), including a case plan and case plan review as defined in section 475 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675).

Arizona affirms that juvenile offenders whose placement is funded through section 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672) receive the protections specified in section 471 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 671), including a case plan and case plan review as defined in section 475 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675).

Requirement (28): The plan shall provide for the coordinated use of funds provided under Title II with other Federal and State funds directed at juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs.

Arizona affirms that it provides for the coordinated use of funds provided under Title II with other Federal and State funds directed at juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs.

Requirement (29): The plan shall describe the policies, procedures, and training in effect for the staff of juvenile State correctional facilities to eliminate the use of dangerous practices, unreasonable restraints, and unreasonable isolation, including by developing effective behavior management techniques.

While developing and modeling pro-social and interpersonal skills is the basis of ADJC [policy and practices](#), the Agency permits its employees to use the amount of force reasonably necessary to overcome unlawful resistance, protect property, maintain order, and decrease the likelihood of serious injury. ADJC Policy 4058 Use of Force and Use of Force Continuum explains the method of force/control to be used should be predicated on the circumstances of the event and the amount of resistance presented by the suspect or juvenile. The use of force as punishment is strictly prohibited. Under no circumstances shall the force/control used be greater than necessary to achieve lawful objectives. Deadly force shall not be used unless an agency employee reasonably believes it is necessary to protect anyone from imminent danger of death or serious physical injury.

ADJC requires the appropriate staff to receive training on handling the behaviors of juveniles in a crisis. The department's policy 4058.02 references the Handle with Care (HWC) program that staff are trained on to address juveniles who do not respond with progressive intervention and pose a threat to harm themselves or others. HWC training is provided by certified instructors and is mandated for various employees working in the secure facility to teach self-protection and restraint skills. The HWC training equips staff with skills necessary for preventative verbal de-escalation and, when necessary, physical intervention to manage behavioral emergencies most safely and effectively possible. These techniques promote tension reduction and maintaining a calm and safe environment in a crisis.

Requirement (30): The plan shall describe: A. the evidence-based methods that will be used to conduct mental health and substance abuse screening, assessment, referral, and treatment for juveniles who: i. request a screening; ii. show signs of needing a screening; or iii. are held for a period of more than 24 hours in a secure facility that provides for an initial screening; and B. how the State will seek, to the extent practicable, to provide or arrange for mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment for juveniles determined to be in need of such treatment.

Arizona affirms that evidence-based methods will be used to conduct mental health and substance abuse screening, assessment, referral, and treatment for juveniles who: Arizona will seek, to the extent practicable, to provide or arrange for mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment for juveniles determined to be in need of such treatment. See Juvenile Detention Standards, section II B 2 for health screening protocols.

In Arizona, justice-involved juveniles are assessed using the Arizona Youth Assessment System (AZYAS), adapted from the Ohio Youth Assessment System with

the assistance of the Ohio State University. This AZYAS is administered to assess the needs of youth who enter the justice system, assist with case planning, and implement appropriate interventions based on individual needs. The AZYAS includes six tools for various contact points within the juvenile justice system. The disposition screening tool is conducted pre-adjudication and assesses substance use history and antisocial attitudes. The disposition tool is conducted post-adjudication and assesses a greater range of domains, including those that address substance abuse, mental health, pro-social skills, and others.

Mental health and substance abuse services for juveniles on probation can be initiated in several ways. This includes 1) through an evaluation/assessment that recommends substance abuse and/or mental health outpatient services, which the home county's probation department selects; 2) through a court order that directs substance abuse/mental health services; or 3) when the probation officer completes the AZYAS, and it has been determined there is a high need or risk to recidivate criminally in the substance abuse or mental health category. In all instances, a Service Authorization Form is used to give the provider basic information about the juvenile and family and is a method for the county and the state to track when approval is given to fund the service. In detention settings, mental health and substance abuse assessments are not conducted by in-house staff but by contracted providers who are called in to perform the appropriate assessments when needed. These providers use evidence-based and approved industry-standard tools, which are required in the terms of their contracts. Expedition of these assessments is prioritized but can be delayed due to provider availability. Youths needing immediate behavioral health services or

assessments are transported to the local hospital emergency room to address acute needs.

Requirement (31): The plan shall describe how reentry planning by the State for juveniles will include: A. a written case plan based on an assessment of needs that includes: i. the pre-release and post-release plans for the juveniles; ii. the living arrangement to which the juveniles are to be discharged; and iii. any other plans developed for the juveniles based on an individualized assessment; and B. review processes.

For juveniles committed to the ADJC, re-entry case planning begins on day one of arrival. The Arizona Youth Assessment System (AZYAS) Re-entry Tool assesses the juvenile's various needs and guides the child's case plan. These needs are based on seven domains: juvenile justice history, family and living arrangements, peers and social support, education and employment, pro-social skill sets, substance abuse, mental health, personality, attitudes, values, and beliefs.

The youth is assigned a parole officer (PO) and a youth transition specialist (YTS) to secure care on the day of arrival. The PO and/or YTS will conduct an in-home assessment with the guardian within the first 30 days. This assessment is geared towards determining the feasibility of returning home. If the home is adequate, the PO will maintain contact and visits with the guardian throughout the stay to ensure the home remains suitable. If a home is deemed unsuitable, placement options are explored, as well as how to mitigate the suitability of the home. During re-entry, the youth's case plan is regularly reviewed by the parole officer and other providers involved in the transition process. Child family team meetings are conducted routinely to allow for updates on the youth's progress and to discuss any potential modifications to the case plan.

Requirement (32): The plan shall provide an assurance that the agency of the State receiving funds under this title collaborates with the State educational agency receiving assistance under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) to develop and implement a plan to ensure that, in order to support educational progress: A. the student records of adjudicated juveniles, including electronic records if available, are transferred in a timely manner from the educational program in the juvenile detention or secure treatment facility to the educational or training program into which the juveniles will enroll; B. the credits of adjudicated juveniles are transferred; and C. adjudicated juveniles receive full or partial credit toward high school graduation for secondary school coursework satisfactorily completed before and during the period of time during which the juveniles are held in custody, regardless of the local educational agency or entity from which the credits were earned.

ADJC secure care facility [Education Bureau](#) shall maintain education records for all students and provide student transcripts to qualified requestors as defined in the Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §§ [15-828](#), [15-741](#), and [15-766](#) as well as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). ADJC Education Bureau shall also provide unofficial transcripts to students and employees as requested for program review, diploma readiness, and scheduling purposes in accordance with Policy 4401 Confidentiality of School Records.

Requirement (33): The plan shall describe policies and procedures to: A. screen for, identify, and document in records of the State identification of victims of domestic human trafficking or those at risk of such trafficking, upon intake; and B. divert youth described in subparagraph (A) to appropriate programs or services, to the extent practicable.

The [AOC JJSD](#) recognizes that juveniles are at risk of or are sex trafficked in all Arizona counties. JJSD participates in efforts to combat sex trafficking in Arizona through involvement in the Arizona Human Trafficking Council and other working groups. JJSD supports juvenile probation departments by providing training, webinars,

and access to resource information as well as in the probation departments' identification of minor victims of sex trafficking (MVST), collaboration with multi-system stakeholders, and referrals to community providers.

Over the last several years, due to increased awareness, state and local juvenile justice systems have increased services available to help minor victims of sex trafficking. Across the state, each juvenile probation department employs a sex trafficking specialist to support efforts in their county, which may include providing trafficking awareness training in different communities and screening youth for trafficking flags during detention intake. When a finding is made that a child is a victim of sex trafficking, they are referred to the appropriate services that offer specialized trauma care as an ancillary service to mental health counseling. In Arizona, residential care for male and female victims of human trafficking is available. As awareness of this problem continues to grow, new initiatives are implemented throughout the state to address the needs of youth victims who are involved or at risk for involvement with the justice system. One example is the Maricopa County Superior Court, which implements the [STRENGTH](#) (Strength through Resilience – Empower New Growth through Hope) program, a specialized court that focuses on the needs of trafficked youth.

In Arizona, youth who are committed to ADJC are screened for human trafficking via clinical interviews and record reviews. Once a youth is identified as a victim of human trafficking, he or she is offered individual therapy that targets the issue. They also receive support through participating in the Sex Trafficking Awareness and Recovery group.

Exhibit A: Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency Youth Crime and Needs

The Arizona State Advisory Group, AJJC, utilizes the AOC as a significant data source for analyzing juvenile crime and developing funding priority areas. The data for this report is extracted each year from the Juvenile On-Line Tracking System (JOLTSaz). JOLTSaz is the automated, statewide juvenile court information management system. Each county actively collects and maintains data for JOLTSaz (iCIS in Maricopa County) to ensure quality and accuracy. The number of juveniles processed in the juvenile justice system is influenced by several factors, such as legislative actions, law enforcement, prosecutorial practices, and the population size of youth in Arizona between eight and 17 years old.

Juvenile Referrals

Arizona has seen a decrease in juvenile activity over the past five years despite a continued increase in the juvenile population. The data below reflects the characteristics of youth who came in contact with the juvenile court system in fiscal year (FY) 2023 (July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023). The juveniles counted in the provided data had a report submitted to the juvenile court alleging that the youth committed a delinquent or incorrigible act. Referrals can be made by police, parents, school officials, probation officers, or other agencies requesting the juvenile court’s involvement in response to the youth’s conduct. There are two types of referrals. “Paper Referrals” are issued as citations, and “Physical Referrals” are police reports to the juvenile court in which the juvenile is physically brought to court.

In 2023, approximately 1,003,000 youth ages eight to 17 lived in Arizona. In FY 2023, 14,880 unduplicated juveniles were referred to County Juvenile Courts. This represents

approximately one in every 100 juveniles. The number of youth referred to juvenile court in FY 2023 represents a 12 percent increase from FY 2022 and a 26 percent decrease from FY 2019. The three most common referral types in 2023 were simple assault (17%), disorderly conduct (9%) and probation violations (8%). Status offenses make up 11 percent of all juveniles referred.

Top 5 Referral Categories		
Simple Assault	3,009	16.98%
Disorderly Conduct	1,592	8.98%
Probation Violation	1,374	7.75%
Possession of Marijuana	1,268	7.16%
Shoplifting	1,022	5.77%
Total	8,265	46.64%

Juveniles Referred by Offense Class		
Felony	3,314	22.27%
Misdemeanor	7,767	52.20%
Violations of Probation & Ordinances	819	5.50%
Status	1,653	11.11%
Other	1,327	8.92%
Total	14,880	100%

Juveniles Referred by Race		
Hispanic	4,884	32.82%
African American	1,960	13.17%
White	6,518	43.80%
Native American	832	5.59%
Asian/Pacific Islander	133	0.89%
Other	224	1.51%
Unknown	329	2.21%

Juveniles Referred by Gender		
Male	9,569	64.31%
Female	5,311	35.69%
Total	14,880	100%

Juveniles Referred by County		
Apache	79	0.53%
Cochise	544	3.66%

Total	14,880	100%
--------------	---------------	-------------

Juveniles Referred by Most Serious Offense Type		
Felonies Against Persons	1,253	8.42%
Felonies Against Property	864	5.81%
Obstruction of Justice, Felony & Misdemeanor	817	5.49%
Misdemeanors Against Persons	2,735	18.38%
Drugs, Felony & Misdemeanor	1,487	9.99%
Public Peace, Felony & Misdemeanor	4,290	28.83%
Misdemeanors Against Property	1,746	11.73%
Status Offense	1,669	11.22%
Administrative	19	0.13%
Total	14,880	100%

Arizona's Juvenile Court Counts FY 23

Coconino	325	2.18%
Gila	202	1.36%
Graham	285	1.92%
Greenlee	34	0.23%
La Paz	47	0.32%
Maricopa	6,935	46.61%
Mohave	783	5.26%
Navajo	302	2.03%
Pima	1,871	12.57%
Pinal	1,109	7.45%
Santa Cruz	277	1.86%
Yavapai	1,245	8.37%
Yuma	842	5.66%
Total	14,880	100%

Juvenile Diversion

The county attorney decides whether or not to file a petition. When a petition against a juvenile is not filed, it is referred to diversion or dismissed. With few exceptions outlined in state statute, all counties in Arizona can provide youth with an opportunity to be diverted from formal court processing. The tables below represent the number of juveniles diverted from formal court proceedings. In FY 2023, 7,108 referrals were diverted, representing 6,580 juveniles. Of these youth, 83 percent had no prior referrals, and 12 percent had only one. Forty-four percent of youth referred in the state received diversion, with some counties diverting more than others. The counties with the lowest referral-to-diversion ratio include Graham, with one diverted per ten referred,

and Apache, with eleven per 100 youth. Counties with the highest ratio of diversions per referral include Cochise (65:100), Gila (61:100), and Santa Cruz (52:100).

Juveniles Diverted by Race		
Hispanic	2,112	32.10%
African American	738	11.22%
White	3,075	46.73%
Native American	313	4.76%
Asian/Pacific Islander	66	1.00%
Other	203	3.09%
Unknown	73	1.11%
Total	6,580	100%

Juveniles Diverted by Gender		
Male	3,872	58.84%
Female	2,708	41.16%
Total	6,580	100%

Juveniles Diverted by Number of Referrals		
0	5,439	82.66%
1	790	12.01%
2	197	2.99%
3	71	1.08%
4	27	0.41%
5	22	0.33%
6	14	0.21%
7	0	0.00%
8+	20	0.30%
Total	6,580	100%

Juveniles Diverted by County		
Apache	9	0.14%
Cochise	352	5.35%
Coconino	153	2.33%
Gila	123	1.87%
Graham	28	0.43%
Greenlee	9	0.14%
La Paz	10	0.15%
Maricopa	3,222	48.97%
Mohave	208	3.16%
Navajo	115	1.75%
Pima	852	12.95%
Pinal	565	8.59%
Santa Cruz	143	2.17%
Yavapai	566	8.60%
Yuma	225	3.42%
Total	6,580	100%

Arizona's Juvenile Court Counts FY 23

Juvenile Petitions

The juvenile court county attorney files a petition to allege that a child is delinquent or incorrigible. This document begins the formal juvenile court process and includes what

charges the state will bring against the juvenile. If a petition is filed and proceeds through adjudication, the juvenile may receive a penalty, standard or intensive probation, residential community placement, or placement in juvenile corrections as disposition.

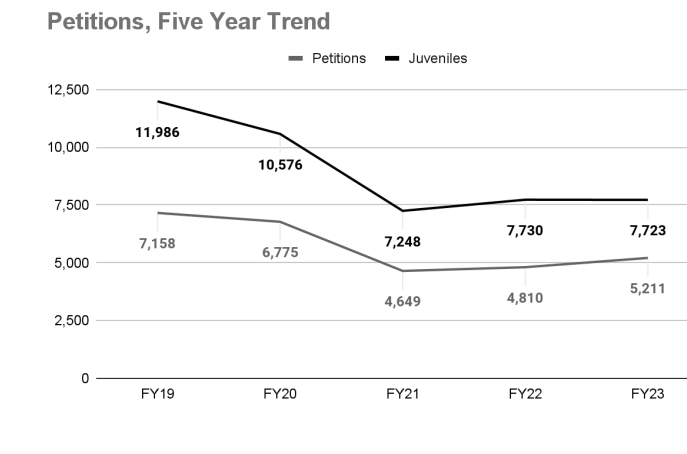
In FY 2023, the number of juveniles receiving petitions increased by eight percent from the previous year. Petitions have decreased over the past five years, consistent with the overall decline in juvenile referrals. Statewide, males represent about three-fourths of the total number of petitioned population.

Juveniles Petitioned by Race		
Hispanic	1,722	33.05%
African American	840	16.12%
White	2,130	40.88%
Native American	366	7.02%
Asian/Pacific Islander	31	0.59%
Other	95	1.82%
Unknown	27	0.52%
Total	5,211	100%

Juveniles Petitioned by Gender		
Male	3,820	73.31%
Female	1,391	26.69%
Total	5,211	100%

Juveniles Petitioned by County		
Apache	56	1.07%
Cochise	149	2.86%
Coconino	132	2.53%
Gila	97	1.86%
Graham	193	3.70%
Greenlee	22	0.42%
La Paz	8	0.15%
Maricopa	2,312	44.37%
Mohave	278	5.33%
Navajo	143	2.74%
Pima	538	10.32%
Pinal	403	7.73%
Santa Cruz	92	1.77%

Arizona's Juvenile Court Counts FY 23



Yavapai	463	8.89%
Yuma	325	6.24%
Total	5,211	100%

Juvenile Detention

Temporary secure custody may be used when a juvenile requires detainment pending a court hearing or when the safety of the youth or the public is at risk. Juvenile detention facilities operate in nine counties.

In FY 2023, 2,321 youth were detained at least once. This is an approximately 12.5 percent increase from the previous year and a 33 percent decrease over the past five years. About 35 percent of detained juveniles were held due to a new referral. Seventy-six percent of the juveniles detained were detained because of a referral. The remaining youth were detained for warrants, courtesy holds for other jurisdictions, and probation consequences. Use of detention was positively correlated with a child's increase in age, and roughly four out of five juveniles detained were male. The most common offense type for a youth to be detained is felony against persons. Hispanic youth made up the largest ethnic group held in detention.

Juveniles Detained by Gender		
Male	1,814	78.16%
Female	507	21.84%
Total	2,321	100%

Juveniles Detained by Race		
Hispanic	857	36.92%
African American	461	19.86%
White	798	34.38%
Native American	137	5.90%

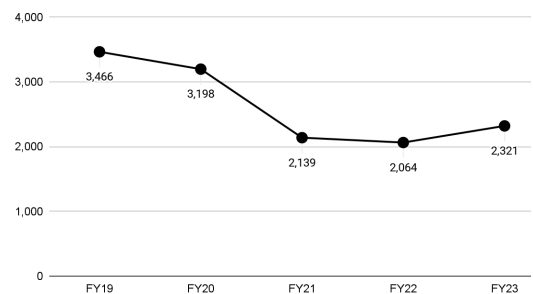
Juveniles Detained by County		
Apache	7	0.30%
Cochise	31	1.34%
Coconino	34	1.46%
Gila	15	0.65%
Graham	54	2.33%
Greenlee	7	0.30%
La Paz	1	0.04%
Maricopa	1,254	54.03%
Mohave	186	8.01%

Asian/Pacific Islander	13	0.56%
Other	26	1.12%
Unknown	29	1.25%
Total	2,321	100%

Navajo	34	1.46%
Pima	203	8.75%
Pinal	148	6.38%
Santa Cruz	30	1.29%
Yavapai	206	8.88%
Yuma	111	4.78%
Total	2,321	100%

Juveniles Detained by Most Serious Offense Type		
Felonies Against Persons	594	33.77%
Felonies Against Property	220	12.51%
Obstruction of Justice, Felony & Misdemeanor	309	17.57%
Misdemeanors Against Persons	120	6.82%
Drugs, Felony & Misdemeanor	111	6.31%
Public Peace, Felony & Misdemeanor	323	18.36%
Misdemeanors Against Property	39	2.22%
Status Offense	15	0.85%
Administrative	28	1.59%
Total	2,321	100%

Juveniles Detained, Five Year Trend



Arizona's Juvenile Court Counts FY 23

Standard and Intensive Probation

Juveniles placed on standard probation receive a personalized treatment plan and must comply with specific conditions, including, but not limited to, mandated curfews, drug testing, school attendance, or community service. If terms are not met, or if the child continues to commit delinquent acts, the juvenile's probation officer may impose a

series of graduated sanctions to encourage greater compliance. Sanctions may include intensive probation, detention, or commitment to juvenile corrections.

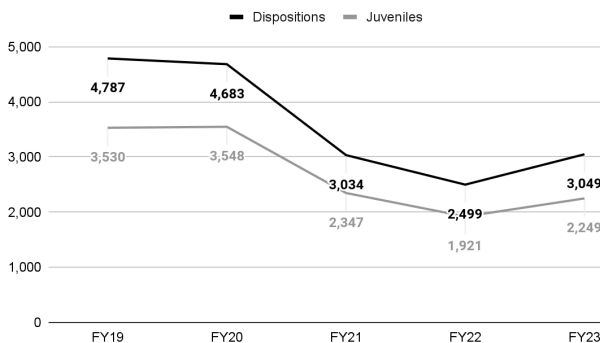
Standard probation dispositions comprised 29 percent of all petitions filed, a four percent increase from the previous year. Furthermore, petitions receiving standard probation have stayed steady (around 30 percent) over the past five years.

Standard Probation by Race		
Hispanic	758	33.70%
African American	344	15.30%
White	933	41.49%
Native American	141	6.27%
Asian/Pacific Islander	16	0.71%
Other	43	1.91%
Unknown	14	0.62%
Total	2,249	100%

Standard Probation by Gender		
Male	1,663	73.94%
Female	586	26.06%
Total	2,249	100%

Arizona's Juvenile Court Counts FY 23

Standard Probation, Five Year Trend



Standard Probation by County		
Apache	11	0.49%
Cochise	44	1.96%
Coconino	43	1.91%
Gila	32	1.42%
Graham	104	4.62%
Greenlee	16	0.71%
La Paz	5	0.22%
Maricopa	1,003	44.60%
Mohave	187	8.31%
Navajo	65	2.89%
Pima	156	6.94%
Pinal	131	5.82%
Santa Cruz	34	1.51%
Yavapai	270	12.01%
Yuma	148	6.58%
Total	2,249	100%

Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision (JIPS) is a program instituted to increase supervision for adjudicated youth while allowing them to remain home. JIPS is often seen as an effective alternative to more costly sanctions such as detention or corrections. Juveniles who participate in JIPS are usually monitored closely by their probation officer with mandated drug testing or increased participation in structured activities.

Of all petitions filed in FY 2023, eight percent received intensive probation. While the portion of petitions to JIPS dispositions has fluctuated over the past five years, 2022 had the second-lowest ratio during this time frame. The most significant portion of petitions was 13.4 percent in FY 2021. The number of youth placed on JIPS in 2023 was 354. Around 76 percent of the total JIP cases were initiated by felony or misdemeanor obstruction of justice offenses (i.e., probation or parole violations, contempt of court, perjury, absconding, resisting arrest), which indicates this level of supervision is often used as a graduated sanction when standard probation is unsuccessful.

JIPS by Gender		
Male	308	87.01%
Female	46	12.99%
Total	354	100%

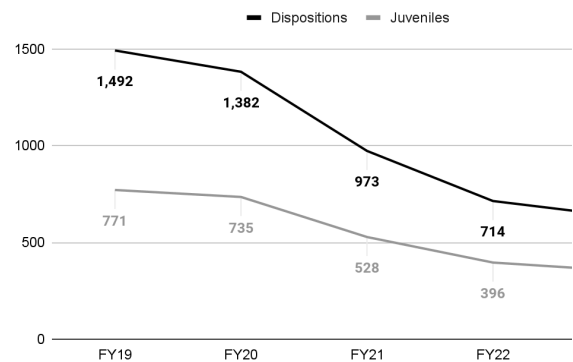
JIPS by Most Serious Offense Type		
Felonies Against Persons	72	20.34%
Felonies Against Property	44	12.43%
Obstruction of Justice,	154	43.50%

JIPS by Race		
Hispanic	147	41.53%
African American	60	16.95%
White	116	32.77%
Native American	24	6.78%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	0.28%
Other	5	1.41%
Unknown	1	0.28%
Total	354	100%

Felony & Misdemeanor		
Misdemeanors Against Persons	11	3.11%
Drugs, Felony & Misdemeanor	15	4.24%
Public Peace, Felony & Misdemeanor	45	12.71%
Misdemeanors Against Property	11	3.11%
Status Offense	1	0.28%
Administrative	1	0.28%
Total	354	100%

--	--	--

JIPS, Five Year Trend



Arizona's Juvenile Court Counts FY 23

Juvenile Corrections

When additional treatment and a restrictive environment are needed, the juvenile court may commit an adjudicated child to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC). These youth receive programming suitable to the juvenile’s age, needs, abilities, and committing offenses. Eighty-eight percent of commitments in FY 2023 were male (a slight decrease from 90 percent in FY 2022), and Hispanic youth made up the largest ethnic group at 34 percent of the total population. Over the past five years, the two highest offense types include property offenses (26-37 percent) and crimes against persons (28-42 percent). Most individuals have received six to ten referrals before commitment to ADJC, which is consistent since FY 2019, and over one-half had a history of between two and five adjudications over that period.

Juvenile Commitments by Gender, FY 23		
Male	96	88.1%

Juveniles Committed By Race/Ethnicity, FY 23		
Hispanic	37	33.9%

Female	13	11.9%
Total	109	100%

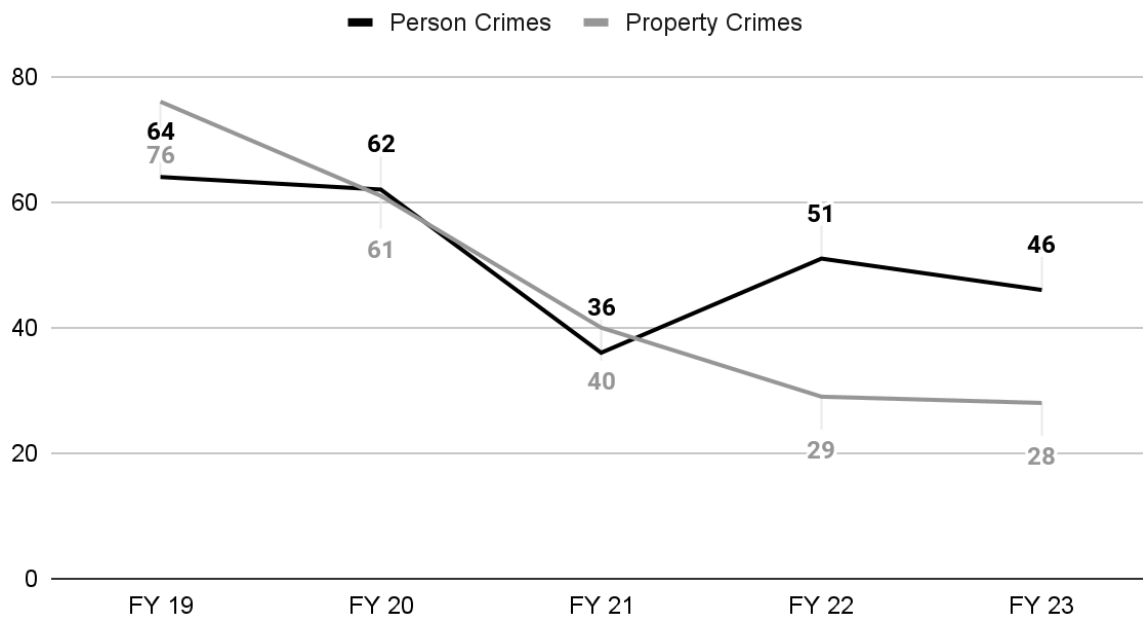
White	18	16.5%
African American	15	13.8%
Native American	7	6.4%
Mixed	31	28.4%
Mexican National	0	0.0%
Asian	1	0.9%
Total	109	100%

Juveniles Committed by Most Serious Offense, FY 23		
Property Offenses	28	25.7%
Crimes Against Persons	46	42.2%
Drug Offenses	9	8.3%
Public Order Offenses	11	10.1%
Weapons Offenses	9	8.3%
All Other Offenses	6	5.5%
Total	109	100%

Number of Referrals, FY 23		
1	3	2.8%
2	7	6.4%
3-5	24	22.0%
6-10	36	33.0%
11-15	18	16.5%
16 or more	21	19.3%
Total	109	100.0%

ADJC Annual Commitments: Demographic Data FY 23

Top Two Most Serious Offense Commitments



Like youth on probation, services are provided to youth in the care and supervision of ADJC delegated through the child’s treatment plan, which is based on a thorough assessment. In many cases, youth are committed to ADJC due to unsuccessfully completing their probation terms due to non-compliance or the commitment of new offenses. Therefore, youth in ADJC custody are typically at higher risk and have more significant needs.

Committed Juvenile Special Populations					
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Serious Mental Illness	40.4%	49.7%	55.4%	42.9%	58.7%
Substance Problems	84.6%	85.5%	82.3%	68.3%	81.7%
Special Education	23.1%	25.6%	29.2%	27.8%	40.4%
Dually Adjudicated	20.7%	19.8%	16.9%	19.0%	12.8%
Gang Involved	45.7%	48.3%	32.3%	32.5%	38.5%

ADJC Annual Commitments: Demographic Data FY 23

The most common issue experienced by committed youth is substance abuse. ADJC provides various treatment programs to youth in their care, both in confinement and community settings. Programs include Aggression Replacement Training, a cognitive behavioral health intervention that seeks to reduce aggression and violent behavior; Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT); a substance abuse curriculum named Seven Challenges; Sex Trafficking Awareness and Recovery; and Victim Offender Recovery, a program that allows a crime victim to meet with the offender in a controlled environment and engage in a purposeful discussion.

Transfers to the Adult Criminal Justice System

Youths charged with certain offenses can be transferred to the adult criminal court system. The county attorney usually initiates this process when a juvenile 15 to 17 is accused of committing an eligible offense listed in state law (mandatory) or when a fourteen-year-old is accused of committing a qualifying offense (discretionary). In addition, the juvenile court can transfer a minor to the criminal court's jurisdiction if it is determined to be in the child's interest or the public.

Juveniles Sent to Adult Court		
Direct Mandatory	223	91.39%
Direct Discretionary	19	7.79%
Transfer	2	0.82%
Total	244	100%

Arizona's Juvenile Court Counts FY 23

Depending on the nature of the committed offense(s), a judge may order the child to be held in a juvenile detention center. These centers are often better equipped to serve minors with age-appropriate programming from staff who are trained to work with juveniles. In FY 2023, 244 juveniles were sent to the adult court system. The state directly prosecuted the majority of youth in this category in criminal court.

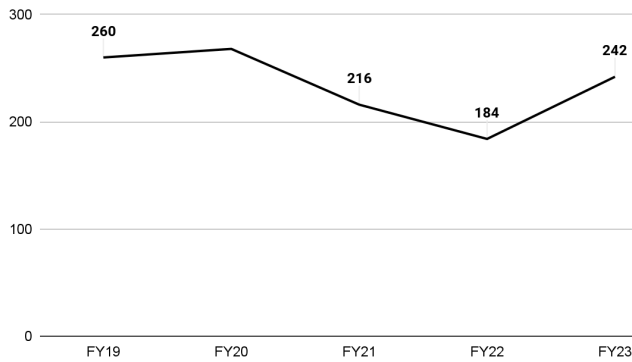
Hispanic youth were the highest-represented race category for FY 23 direct file cases, making up 44 percent of the population. Males made up 94 percent of the total. The top three counties where youth were filed directly to criminal court were Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties.

Direct Filed Juveniles by Race		
Hispanic	107	44.21%
African American	58	23.97%
White	52	21.49%
Native American	13	5.37%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	1.24%
Other	4	1.65%
Unknown	5	2.07%
Total	242	100%

Direct Filed Juveniles by Gender		
Male	228	94.21%
Female	14	5.79%
Total	242	100%

Arizona's Juvenile Court Counts FY 23

Juveniles Direct Filed to Adult Court, Five Year Trend



Direct Filed Juveniles by County		
Apache	0	0.00%
Cochise	0	0.00%
Coconino	0	0.00%
Gila	0	0.00%
Graham	0	0.00%
Greenlee	0	0.00%
La Paz	0	0.00%
Maricopa	142	58.68%
Mohave	6	2.48%
Navajo	2	0.83%
Pima	71	29.34%
Pinal	20	8.26%
Santa Cruz	1	0.41%
Yavapai	0	0.00%
Yuma	0	0.00%
Total	242	100%

Exhibit B: Goals and Objectives

The state advisory group (SAG), authorized under [E.O. 2023-20](#), the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC), provides valuable input and oversight to address the state's juvenile justice needs. Each year, the commission meets to discuss the state's priorities, and this feedback assists GOYFF in designing priorities that are responsive to current statewide needs.

The state proposes these goals and objectives based on an analysis of Arizona's juvenile delinquency issues and public safety. These state priorities will serve as guidance for the SAG and other planning agencies to develop strategies targeting effective programming or system improvement to achieve better outcomes for youth.

Goal 1: Prevent juvenile justice system involvement by engaging youth, parents, and communities with services that increase protective factors and reduce delinquent behaviors.

Objective 1: Support and promote evidence-based, trauma-informed prevention services for youth and families.

Objective 2: Support and promote services that divert status and other low-risk offenders from further involvement in the justice system.

Goal 2: Ensure youth have access to behavioral health services pre- and post-justice system involvement.

Objective 1: Support and promote programs that connect youth and families to appropriate mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

Objective 2: Support and promote increased availability of mental health and substance abuse treatment services in rural and tribal communities.

Goal 3: Reduce recidivism by ensuring youth and families receive adequate support through effective post-placement and reentry services.

Objective 1: Support and promote evidence-based, trauma-informed intervention strategies for incarcerated youth.

Objective 2: Support and promote ongoing collaboration between juvenile justice and child welfare systems to ensure crossover youth receive appropriate services that decrease justice involvement and improve permanency outcomes.

Objective 3: Support and promote reentry services that engage families to facilitate the successful transition from incarceration into the community.

Goal 4: Maintain compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Objective 1: Achieve de minimis compliance rate with DSO, Separation and Jail Removal core requirements.

Objective 2: Collaborate with stakeholders to reduce racial and ethnic disparities for youth of color in the justice system.

Goal 5: Establish strong partnerships with tribal communities to address the needs of at-risk and justice-involved Native American youth.

Objective 1: Increase outreach efforts with all Arizona tribal nations to establish strong rapport and share strategies that address delinquency in their communities.

Objective 2: Support juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention services in Arizona's tribal communities.

Exhibit C: Project Design and Implementation

Goal 1: Prevent juvenile justice system involvement by engaging youth, parents, and communities with services that increase protective factors and reduce delinquent behaviors.

The state will support and promote evidence-based and trauma-informed prevention services for youth and families by identifying statewide needs for appropriate prevention programs and strategies and promoting findings to the public. This will be achieved by a) reviewing available data to determine needs and service gaps and b) studying promising strengths that utilize scientific knowledge regarding adolescent development and behaviors. This information will be shared with stakeholders and the general public. In addition, formula grant funds will support evidence-based prevention services in rural, urban, and tribal communities.

The state will use a similar process to identify community needs for juvenile court-based detention alternative projects and promote findings to the stakeholders. The commission will review the availability of gender-based services to address the needs of female youth, which can be overlooked as programming tends to target court-involved boys.

Goal 2: Ensure youth have access to behavioral health services pre- and post-justice system involvement.

The state will work to identify jurisdictions and populations with the highest need for increased access to behavioral health care, including counties that detain youth pending placement into residential treatment program areas. This information will help to inform stakeholders which regions have the greatest need for resources. The state will also work to pinpoint communities that experience limited diversity of adequate behavioral

health providers and support and promote programs that address the needs of underserved populations. In addition, the state will use formula grant funds to support innovative initiatives that will increase access to mental health and substance abuse services.

Goal 3: Reduce recidivism by ensuring youth and families receive adequate support through effective post-placement and reentry services.

A review of current programs provided for youth in detention will be conducted, along with a study of promising detention-based strategies. This information will be used to support evidence-based and trauma-informed programs for detained youth. The state will also review its current collaboration status between juvenile justice and child welfare systems to ensure both sectors address the needs of crossover youth. To address post-incarceration, the state will work with community corrections, youth-serving agencies, and families to ensure a continuum of care for youth transitioning back into their communities. The state will collaborate with partnering agencies to procure additional funding for effective reentry services that engage parents and reduce recidivism.

Goal 4: Maintain compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

The GOYFF compliance monitor will continue to lead efforts to ensure Arizona is effectively monitoring for compliance with the DSO, Separation, and Jail Removal core requirements. This will be necessary to ensure the state maintains compliance with the JJDP Act and will inform the AJJC of barriers to compliance as they arise. While the most recent compliance rates were well under the maximum standard established by

OJJDP, the state will continue to be vigilant in responding to all compliance violations. The state will also work to ensure compliance with the requirement under 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(11)(B) by collaborating with the criminal court system to develop a process for tracking minors charged as adults. This plan will create standard protocols based on the pending guidance from OJJDP. In addition to the first three core protections, the state will continue its work on the fourth requirement to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. The Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission will staff the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup to promote equity in the juvenile justice system, track statewide efforts that target this issue, and report to OJJDP on the state's progress.

The plan shall provide for an effective system of monitoring jails, lockups, detention facilities, and correctional facilities to ensure that the core requirements are met, and for annual reporting of the results of such monitoring to the Administrator, except that such reporting requirements shall not apply in the case of a State which is in compliance with the other requirements of this paragraph, which is in compliance with the requirements in paragraphs (11) and (12), and which has enacted legislation which conforms to such requirements and which contains sufficient enforcement mechanisms to ensure that such legislation will be administered effectively.

Goal 5: Establish strong partnerships with tribal communities to address the needs of at-risk and justice-involved Native American youth

The AJJC will continue to work on increasing avenues between the state's juvenile justice system and the 22 federally recognized Native American tribal nations in Arizona to support delinquency prevention and recidivism reduction efforts based on their defined needs. A portion of formula grant funding will be reserved to fund tribal

programs. In addition, the state will continue to identify opportunities to facilitate communication and establish regularly used avenues for ongoing collaboration.

Exhibit D: Collecting and Sharing Juvenile Justice Information

Every justice agency is required to use the same general information flow model. The same rules and requirements constrain each. For example, arrest must precede booking, booking precedes trial, and trial precedes sentencing. The law requires that the criminal process follow specific steps and procedures. In part, the applicable law is found in Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 13, Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure, Arizona Rules of Court, and the case law of the United States Supreme Court and the Arizona Courts. In many cases, information flow can only be changed by changing the legal process. However, there are opportunities to share information between systems when appropriate and while following the specific agency requirements for sharing information.

Information is shared regularly when it does not contain identifying information or anything that might violate confidentiality requirements or regulations. These data points are found in regularly published reports such as the Arizona Juvenile Court Counts, published by the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts, or the Arizona Youth Survey, published by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. These reports provide the foundation for data-driven decision-making for the Three-Year Plan and other strategic plans developed across the juvenile justice system. Reports are easily accessible on various agency websites and shared among epidemiological and/or data-sharing work groups.

Gathering juvenile justice information and sharing data across state agencies have been ongoing developments for many years. With the upgraded Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTSaz), probation departments from different counties can more

efficiently share information to address the needs of youth who contact the juvenile justice system in multiple counties. As of 2024, all counties in Arizona are connected with the updated database, with the exception of Maricopa County, which possesses a separate system previously incompatible with JOLTSaz. These improvements should greatly enhance data sharing across the state.

Barriers to effective data sharing exist between different systems, including juvenile justice, education, child welfare, and mental health providers. This significantly impacts the state's crossover youth population. These youth are involved in both the juvenile justice and dependency systems and often have very high needs. Arizona continues to address the challenge of implementing data-sharing policies that allow more effective service delivery for youth and families without violating the child's privacy rights. In 2017, the Task Force on Crossover Youth Data and Information Sharing was established to issue recommendations for addressing the needs of crossover youth, including appropriate information-sharing practices that will lead to better outcomes for the state's at-risk youth. In all, the published report titled *Opening the Door* included 49 recommendations ranging from comprehensive screening procedures for youth entering the juvenile justice system that identifies dependent youth to establishing a crossover youth agency that serves as a point of contact for organizations that work with this population and provides training and assistance for navigating statutes and regulations that govern information sharing.

The AJJC is committed to supporting ongoing efforts to develop and refine mechanisms for comprehensive information sharing. Through support of information-sharing projects and initiatives, the AJJC will stay informed on current procedures and facilitate ongoing

dialogue that addresses collecting and exchanging relevant juvenile justice information, including information that can be shared between multiple youth-serving agencies.

The Title II Formula Grant performance measures help GOYFF report on outcomes that demonstrate the results of the work carried out by the award. In addition to collecting data from Title II funded subgrantees, GOYFF will assess state-implemented activities supported by the FY 2024 formula grant program and provide OJJDP with the appropriate outcomes as listed in the OJJDP FY 2024 Title II Formula Grants Program Performance Measures form. The information captured by the GOYFF data collection tools will be entered into the JustGrants reporting system annually.

Exhibit E: System Description

Arizona's Juvenile Justice System includes a diverse array of services and programming. Agencies and systems must collaborate to adequately address the complex needs of youth in the system. Understanding the system's structure and function and analyzing current trends provides the basic framework for developing solutions that address emerging issues and fill service gaps.

Arizona's Juvenile Court System

Arizona's Juvenile Justice System comprises fifteen county juvenile courts, probation departments, and the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC). Youth ages eight to 17 are processed through this system for committing delinquent or incorrigible offenses. The Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts, Juvenile Justice Services Division (AOC/JJSD) provides administrative support and oversight for the following county juvenile justice programs: diversion, standard probation, intensive probation, and treatment. The AOC is the coordinating agency for policy, service contracts, and payments to treatment providers that comprise the continuum of treatment services authorized or ordered by the juvenile courts. The AOC is also responsible for managing state appropriations allocated to fund these treatment and probation efforts. The AOC regularly collaborates with the counties to establish and monitor budgets and programming to deliver these services. Arizona statute requires juveniles placed in out-of-home residential care funded through Section 472 of the Social Security Act to receive protections specified in sections 471–475, including a case plan and case plan review.

Juvenile Courts and Probation Departments

In Arizona, county juvenile probation departments operate under the authority of a presiding juvenile court judge. Each presiding juvenile court judge has the authority to appoint the chief juvenile probation officer. In some counties, this role is named the director of juvenile court services. This position supervises the county probation department. County probation departments provide diversion, court/probation services, treatment, and short-term detention to youth entering the juvenile justice system. Juveniles who must comply with specific terms and conditions due to committing a delinquent or incorrigible (status) offense are assigned to a probation officer. Probation officers monitor and supervise youth during the intervention phase of the continuum. Typically, services progress from less restrictive to more restrictive consequences.

Detention

Juvenile detention centers provide the temporary and safe custody of juveniles. A juvenile may be detained pending a court hearing or as a dispositional option as ordered by the court. Arizona has ten operating juvenile detention centers and juvenile temporary holding facilities. During the 2023 fiscal year, 2,321 juveniles were detained at least once in a juvenile detention center. The presiding judges of the juvenile courts are statutorily responsible for the supervision of detention centers, which their respective county governments primarily support. The AOC has administrative authority over all the courts and court programs, including juvenile detention centers. This means that the state contributes the majority of program funding and provides administrative oversight to the detention facilities.

Juvenile detention centers are required to comply with statewide policies and procedures outlined in the [Arizona Juvenile Detention Standards](#), revised in 2024.

Secure juvenile facilities must implement these best practice standards to guide operational, environmental, and admissions procedures. The state mandates juvenile detention personnel to receive specialized training that prepares them to serve and address the unique needs of youth, as stated in Section IB3 of the Arizona Juvenile Detention Standards. The AOC conducts periodic inspections to ensure compliance. In addition, each juvenile detention facility offers services beyond providing secure housing. These services include education, healthcare, nutrition, recreation, and family visitation. Many facilities also offer behavioral health services such as parenting skills classes, anger management classes, and substance abuse treatment.

Diversions

Diversions is a process that allows a juvenile to avoid the formal court process and instead receive a referral alleging an adjusted offense if the juvenile complies with one or more conditions. Adjusting means disposing of a case without the juvenile being required to appear in court. If a referral is adjusted, a petition is not filed. A petition is a document filed by the county attorney that seeks to have a juvenile adjudicated as a delinquent or incorrigible child. Diversions aims to direct youth away from formal court proceedings by assigning a set of conditions. When these conditions are successfully completed, further court action is avoided. Diversions referrals come from the police, schools, and parents. Only youth who acknowledge responsibility for their actions are eligible. Youth charged with multiple felony offenses, violent felony offenses, or those arrested for drunk driving are not eligible for Diversions.

[Arizona Revised Statute \(A.R.S.\) § 8-321](#) specifies the consequences a juvenile probation officer may assign to diverted youth. The probation officer can determine

which and how many consequences will be assigned. Options include unpaid community service work, restitution to the victim(s), monetary penalties, counseling programs, outpatient rehabilitation programs, and educational programs that address delinquency and substance abuse. Probation departments, service providers, or nonprofit community organizations can deliver these services.

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

ADJC operates and maintains Adobe Mountain School, a secure care facility for the custody, treatment, and education of committed juveniles. Each juvenile committed to ADJC receives programming appropriate to the juvenile's age, needs, abilities, and committed offenses. Programming includes education, individual and group counseling, psychological services, health care, and recreation. In addition, treatment groups and specialized housing units serve juveniles with histories of violence, substance abuse, or sexual offenses. Each housing unit is staffed with a program supervisor, a caseworker, and youth correctional officers to supervise youth and monitor their treatment plans. In addition, ADJC employs and contracts with healthcare professionals who manage and deliver direct services, including medical, dental, and psychiatric services to committed youth.

Exhibit F: Statewide Stakeholders Survey

In March 2024, an anonymous survey was sent to various juvenile justice stakeholders working in counties or tribal communities. Altogether, 126 individuals completed the survey, providing their perspectives on needs within their jurisdictions. The survey asked participants to note prevalent delinquency and incorrigible behaviors, in addition to various services they felt were needed to support prevention and treatment within their community.

Of the 126 responses, 24 Tribal participants representing the Navajo Nation and the Pasque Yaqui Tribe completed the survey. Similarly to the county-level responses, the results point to some general themes that can be used as a starting point for further inquiry into the needs of tribal communities throughout the state.

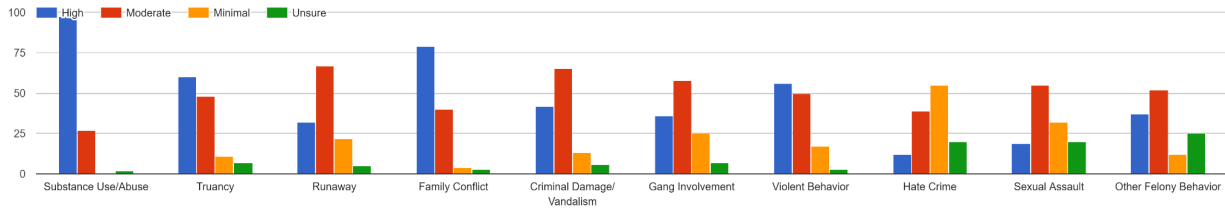
Statewide Survey (County-level and Tribal)

Responses from the county-level officials illustrated some common themes on issues faced around the state and the recommended interventions to address them. No responses were received from Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, or Santa Cruz County; however, all other counties submitted at least one survey. Most participants were probation staff (28.6 percent), with the remaining responses coming primarily from youth service providers, including mental health providers. Ninety-five percent of respondents noted juvenile delinquency as a serious or moderate community problem.

Seventy-seven percent of surveys submitted identified alcohol and substance use/abuse as the most prevalent high-risk issue within their community. This was followed by family conflict (63%), and truancy (48%) as the following two most often recognized risky behaviors. However, more respondents classified family conflict as a

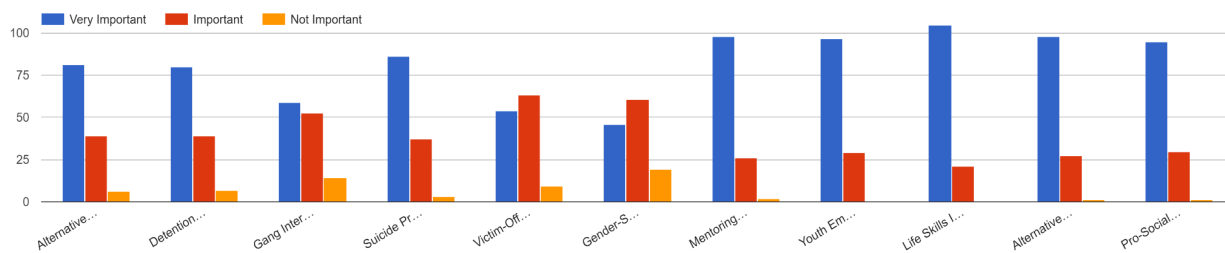
serious problem. Incurable acts, including runaway and truancy, were also widely ranked as moderately prevalent.

To what extent do you believe the following risky behaviors are exhibited by youth in your community?



Survey participants were also asked to provide their input on the services most needed in their community. As expected, most surveys indicated at least some interest in all categories provided; however, programs receiving the highest ranking of need were related to life skills. About 75 percent of participants noted the importance of life skills programs, youth employment services, and pro-social activities, which can all be seen as a specific type of delinquency prevention service.

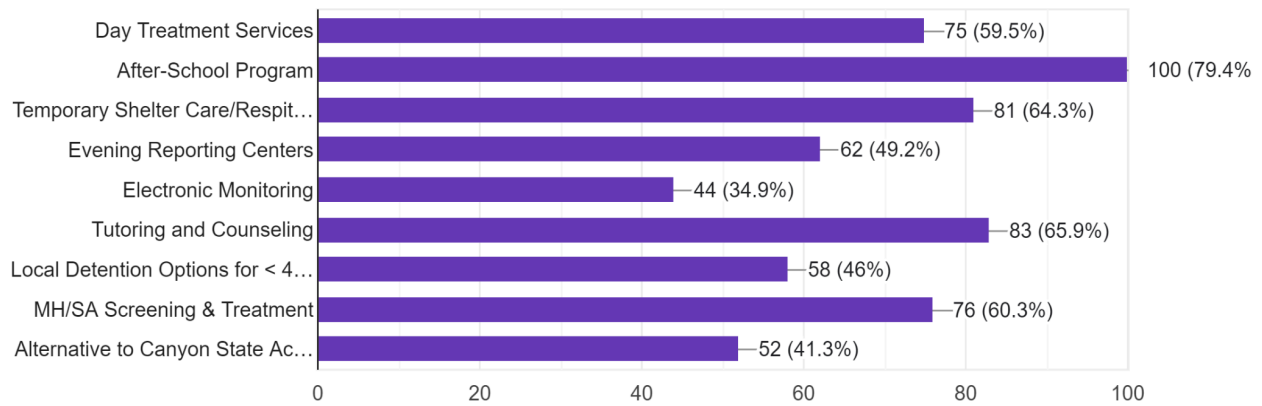
What services are needed in your community to address juvenile crime and behaviors that put juveniles at risk of system involvement?



Detention alternatives often represent a wide range of community programs. Respondents were open to more than a certain number of responses that they considered most needed in their community.

What alternatives to detention would you like to see in your community?

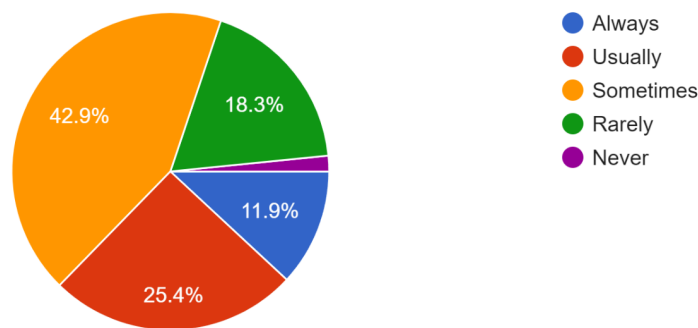
126 responses



Participants provided their input on the adequacy of culturally informed programming, with about 37 percent feeling that it was always or usually incorporated, 43 percent believing it is sometimes sufficiently ingrained, and the remaining 20 percent noted that it rarely or never incorporated.

Do your local youth programs take culture(s) into account when providing services?

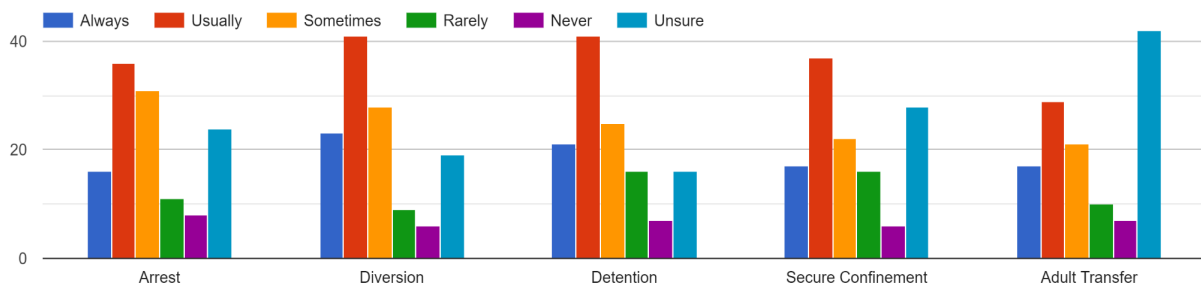
126 responses



In addition, respondents were asked to provide their opinions on how fair youth are treated in the justice system based on race and ethnicity. Overall, diversion was indicated as the point where youth are treated the most equitably, with 51 percent

stating this occurs always or most of the time. While no significant discrepancies between decision points were noted among survey participants, there was slightly less confidence in equitable treatment with elevating juveniles to the adult system.

Are juveniles, regardless of race, treated equitably at the different juvenile justice system contact points?



To summarize, while the scope of this survey is limited due to the relatively small sample size, analyzing the overarching themes provided by experts is nevertheless helpful. One referenced need from the survey is for increased availability of mental health/substance abuse screening and treatment services. The reference to these types of programs is consistent with data that illustrates the disproportionate pervasiveness of behavioral health issues in the justice-involved youth population. In addition, various types of community-based programs, including culturally sensitive detention alternatives, diversion, after-school, and mentoring programs that divert youth from initial contact and further penetration into the system, were commonly deemed critical. The general concepts gleaned from these surveys should be reviewed and considered in the state’s mission to improve outcomes for youth. As the tool gains more traction in the years to come and incrementally engages more participants, it should serve as an additional feasible method for regularly assessing statewide issues and identifying community-specific needs.

Exhibit G: Substance Use and Risky Behaviors

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) and the Arizona State University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice produce a biennial survey of middle and high school use to measure the prevalence of substance use and other high-risk behaviors in Arizona. The study¹, most recently conducted in 2022, provides insight into adolescent youth's current, more frequently committed activities that may threaten their health and safety. For instance, the report created for the study shows that many dangerous drugs are on the decline. Although 66 percent of youth do not perceive drugs as harmful, alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco use are also decreasing. The three substances reported as most commonly used among students are generally accepted by society. It is legal for much of the population to use these substances. Therefore, many youth grow up seeing non-negative depictions of vaping, liquor, and marijuana consumption as they become adolescents in the current culture.

Another warning sign that demonstrates youth are at a higher risk for delinquency is connectivity to the child's school. Sixty-two percent of the state's youth report feeling low commitment to their school. Sometimes, a child's school can be the safest and most stable environment. Not only is a student's academic performance critical for future success, but this is the source of most peer interaction and positive adult role models outside the family. Thus, each community must continue to identify strategies to keep youth engaged.

¹https://www.azcjc.gov/Portals/0/Documents/pubs/AYSReports/2022/AYS_2022%20_State_Report_FINAL_09072022.pdf

Exhibit H: Trauma and Toxic Stress

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study from 2021 revealed that roughly half of Arizona’s children have one to three ACEs. Twenty-two percent reported four to ten ACEs.² These experiences have been empirically linked to an increased risk in hazardous conditions, such as drug and alcohol addiction, depression, and medical problems, such as heart disease. Due to the impact that trauma can have on a child’s life, which can lead to risky behaviors well into adulthood, it is gravely important that the link between ACEs and delinquency is understood when determining strategies for reducing toxic stress by integrating trauma-informed and evidence-based practices when prevention and intervention services are developed for at-risk youth.

Continued analysis of the scope and impact of ACEs on Arizona’s youth should be a priority to routinely measure where and what type of intervention is needed to promote resiliency within these populations to reverse the negative impacts of trauma. Programs and initiatives can be strategically targeted to address ACEs “hot spots” by ensuring various youth-serving sectors, such as education, justice, and treatment providers, incorporate trauma-informed approaches.

²<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/prevention/womens-childrens-health/assessment-evaluation/aces-report-2023.pdf>