NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. PREPARE

Racial & Ethnic Disparities RED in Juvenile Justice: An Overview of NC & Orange County Data

Crystal Wynn-Lewis, MPA
Racial & Ethnic Disparities Coordinator
NCDPS Division of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

Agenda

- What is **RED**?
- Review the requirements of federal law (JJDPA) for addressing **RED**.
- Define the problem by evaluating NC **RED** data.
- Discuss how NC is working to identify and reduce **RED** in the JJS.

Quick Facts on RED in NC

- Youth of color make up 46% of the youth population ages 6-17 in NC but represented in FY 21-22:
  - 71% of complaints received
  - 80% of detention admissions
  - 78% of commitments to YDC
- Black/AA youth make up 24% of the youth population ages 6-17 in NC, but represented in FY 21-22:
  - 58% of complaints received
  - 66% of detention admissions
  - 66% of commitments to YDC

What is RED?

- "Racial and Ethnic Disparity," as defined by the JJDPA, means that:
  - minority youth populations are involved at a decision point in the juvenile justice system at disproportionately higher rates than non-minority youth at that decision point.

34 U.S.C. § 11103(41)

Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDPA) of 1974

- The JJDPA was the first comprehensive juvenile justice legislation passed by Congress.
- The law specifically outlines standards for the fair treatment of juveniles and authorizes states to innovate efforts to prevent delinquency.

- Established the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).
- Voluntary partnerships – federal govt. & states.
- Provides funds to improve delinquency prevention.
- State plans must adhere to requirements.
- States agree to certain standards of care for juveniles.
- 4 Core protections of JJDPA.

Juvenile Justice Legislation

JJDPA Key Highlights

https://www.ojjdp.gov/dmc/about.html

JJDPA 4 Core Protections

- Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders – 1974

  (DSO): 34 U.S.C. § 11133 (a)(11)

- Sight and Sound Separation – 1974

  (Separation): 34 U.S.C. § 11133 (a)(12)

- Adult Jail & Lock-up Removal - 1980

  (Jail Removal): 34 U.S.C. § 11133 (a)(11)(B) and (a)(13)

- Racial and Ethnic Disparities RED formerly (DMC) – 1988

  34 U.S.C. § 11133 (a)(15)

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. PREPARE

Compliance with RED Core Requirement

Juvenile Justice Data Collection

Contact Points, Percentages & Relative Rate Index

RED Core Requirement

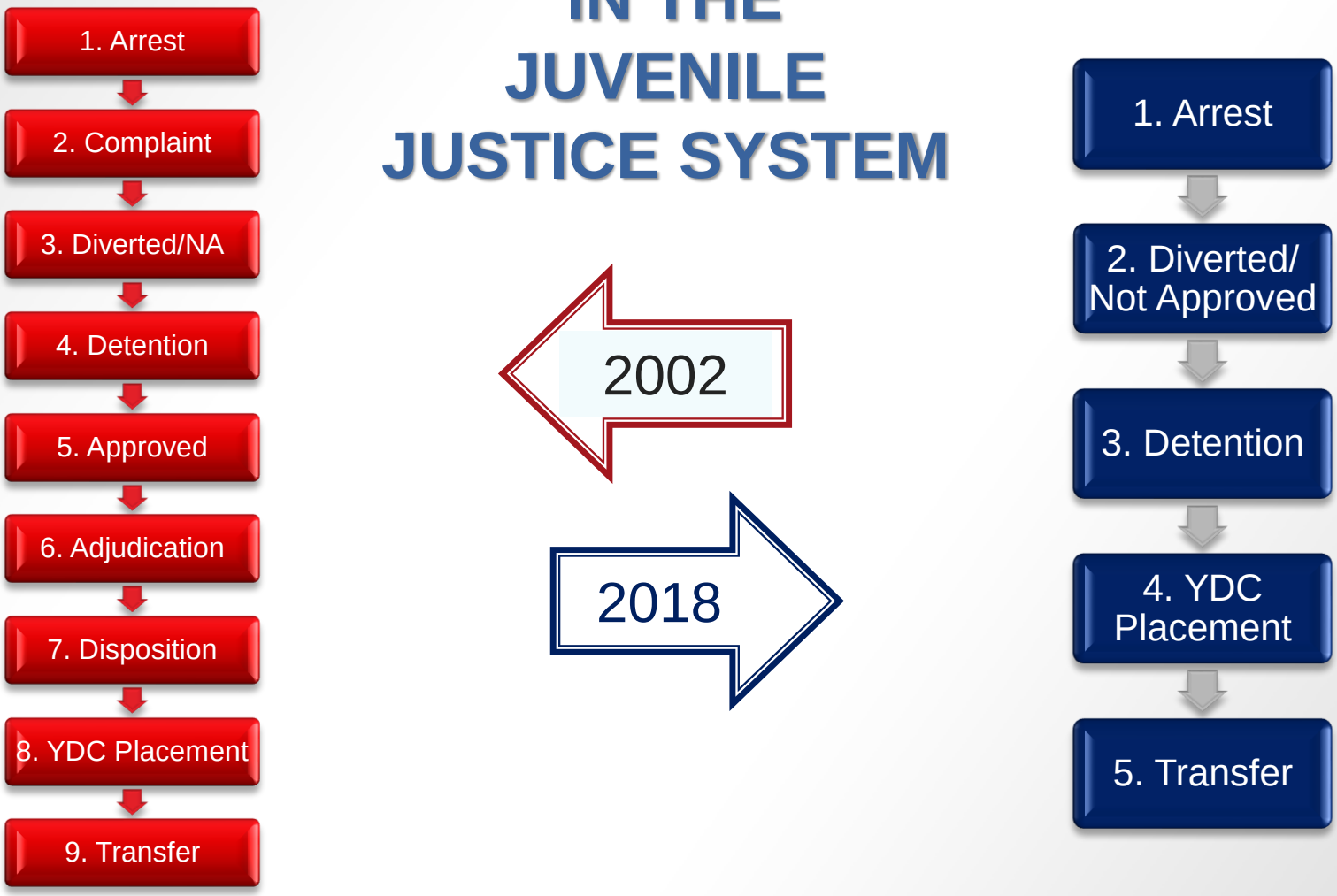
- States and territories must "implement policy, practice, and system improvement strategies at the state, territorial, local, and tribal levels, as applicable, to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, without establishing 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)."

34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(15)

State Compliance

- State compliance is required for Title II funding.
- Compliance is achieved when states address RED through:
  - Identification
  - Development of 3-year RED action plan
  - Outcome-based evaluation
- Requires data collection related to 5 “contact points”
- GCC monitors compliance as NC’s Designated State Agency (“DSA”).

DECISION POINTS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. PREPARE

Defining the Problem: NC Juvenile Justice RED Data FY21-22

Juvenile Justice Data Collection

Population, Contact Points, and School Complaints

North Carolina Youth Population

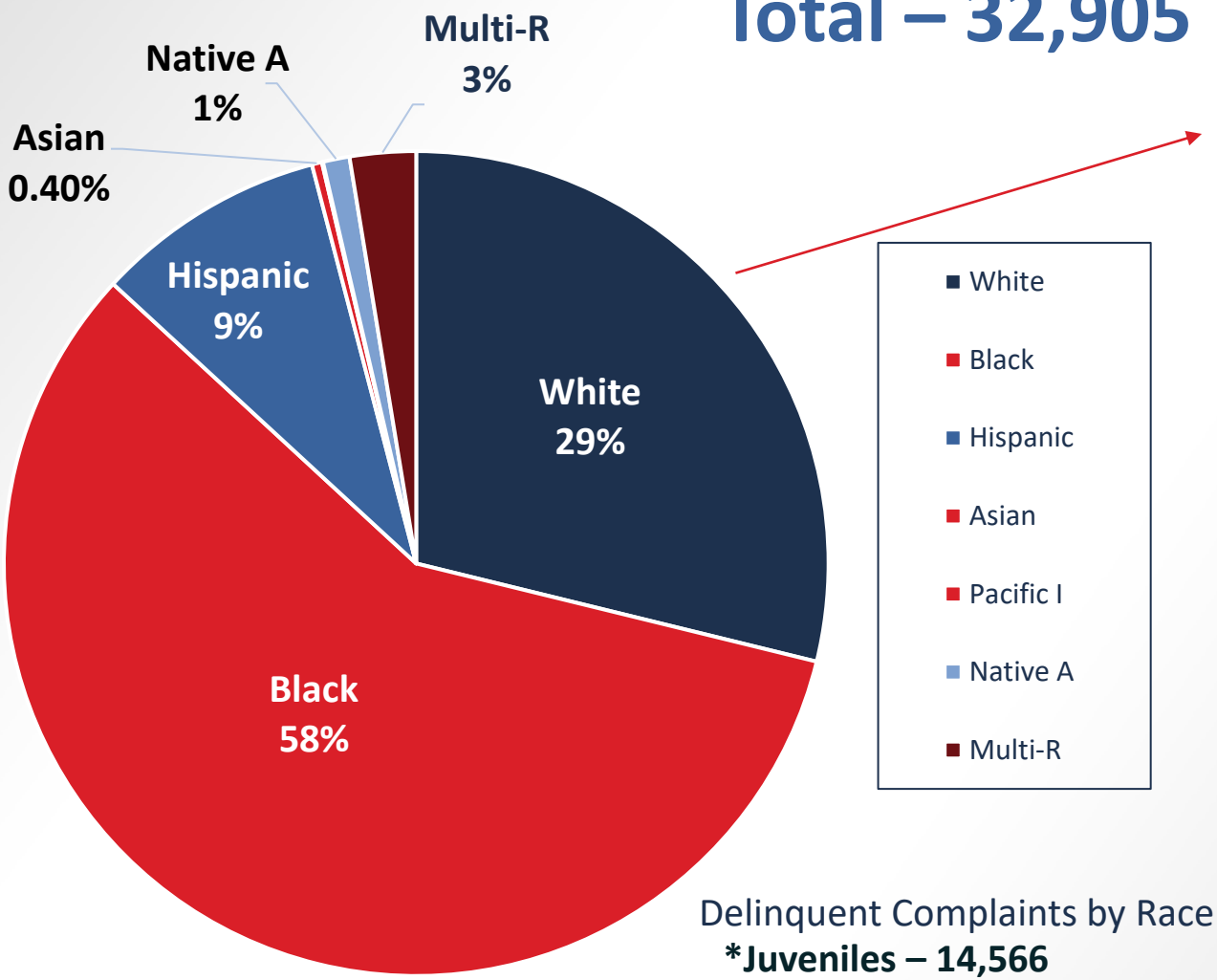
Population by Race/Ethnicity Ages 6-17

Race	Population*	% Population Ages 6-17
Total	**1,566,165**	
White	849,171	**54%**
African American	381,768	**24%**
Hispanic/Latino	257,466	**17%**
Other Races	77,760	**5%**

https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

Delinquent Complaints: FY21-22

Total – 32,905



NC Youth Population
by Race/Ethnicity

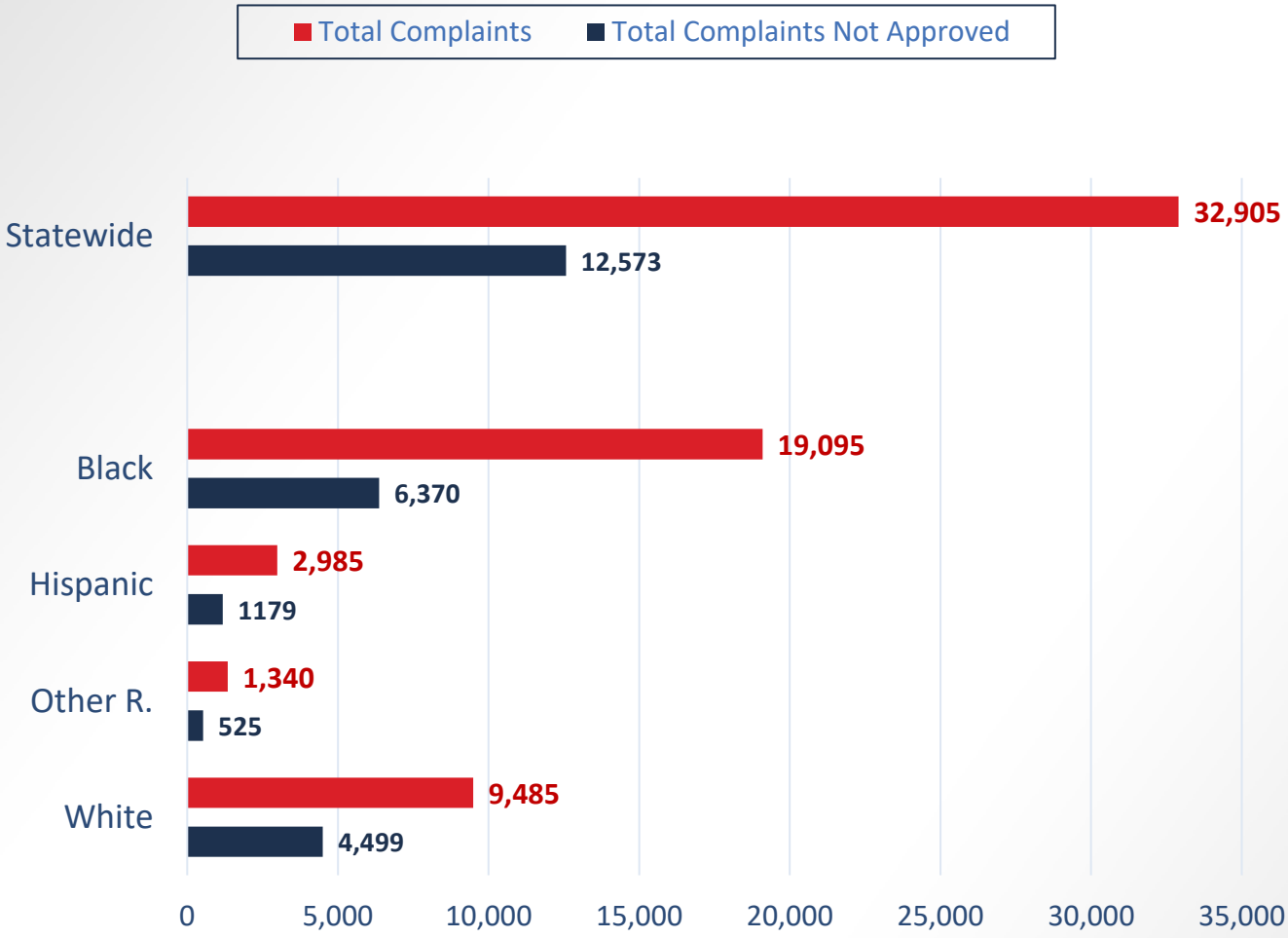
Total	**1,566,165**
White	**54%**
Black/AA	**24%**
Hispanic	**17%**
Other Races	**5%**

Delinquent Complaints by Race
***Juveniles – 14,566**

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

Complaints Not Approved by Race/Ethnicity: FY 21-22

Delinquent Complaints Only

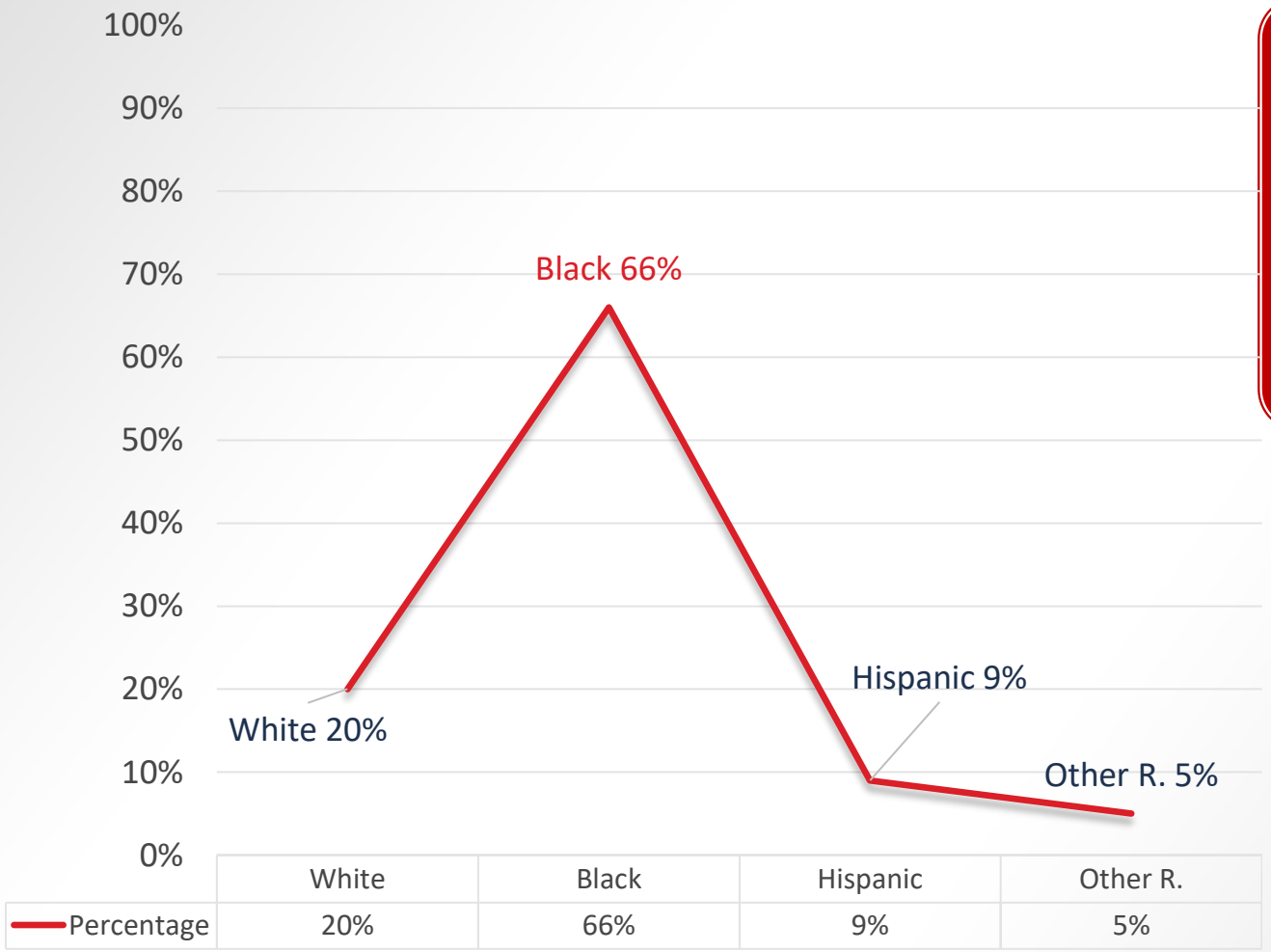


% of Complaints
Not Approved/Diverted
by Race/Ethnicity

White	47%
Black	33%
Hispanic	40%
Other R.	39%

STATEWIDE - 38%

Detention Placement: FY21-22



Detention Total	2,506
White	493
Black	**1,663**
Hispanic	229
Other Races	121

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

Approved for Court: FY21-22

Court Approved Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	% Approved Ages 6-17
Total	**19,798 (60% of complaints)**
White	24%
Black	**63%**
Hispanic	9%
Other	4%

Delinquent Complaints Only

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

Adjudication: FY21-22

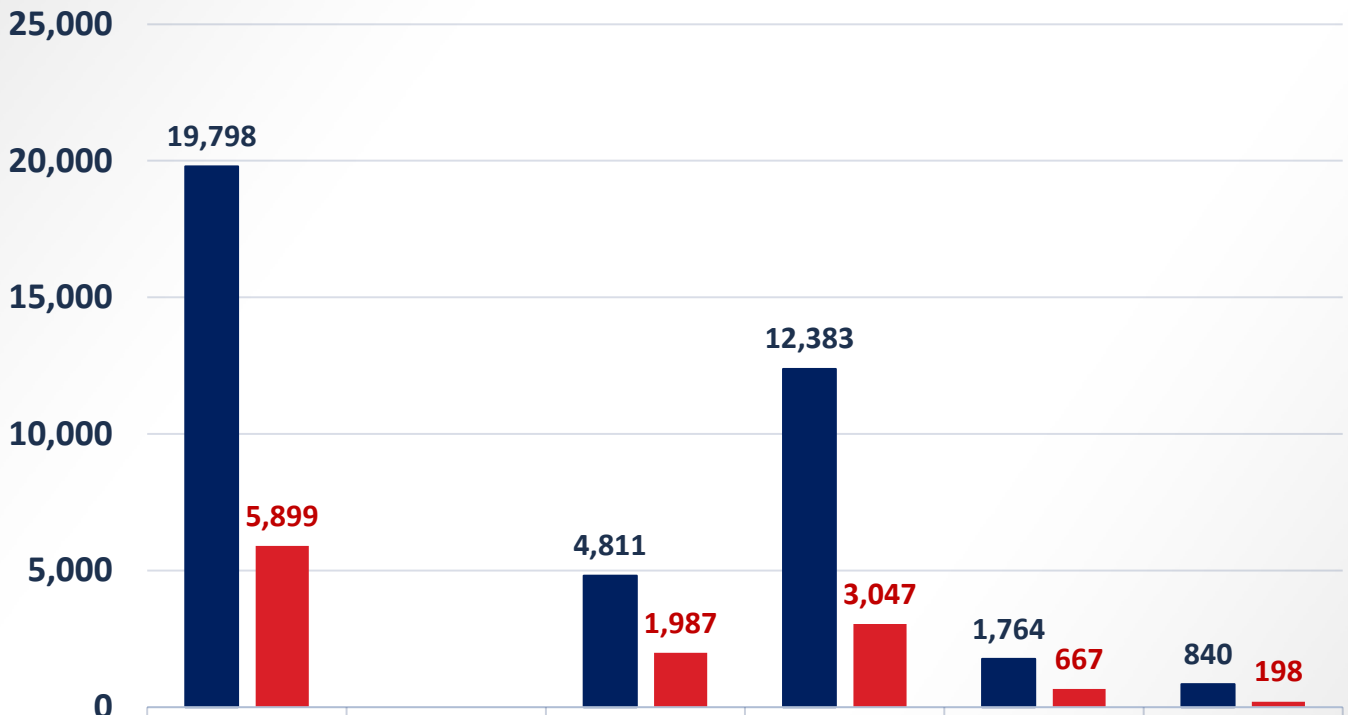
Adjudication Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Ages 6-17 Complaints	% Adjudicated
Total	**5,899 (23% of appr. Complaints)**	
White		34%
Black		**52%**
Hispanic		11%
Other Races		3%

Delinquent Complaints Only

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

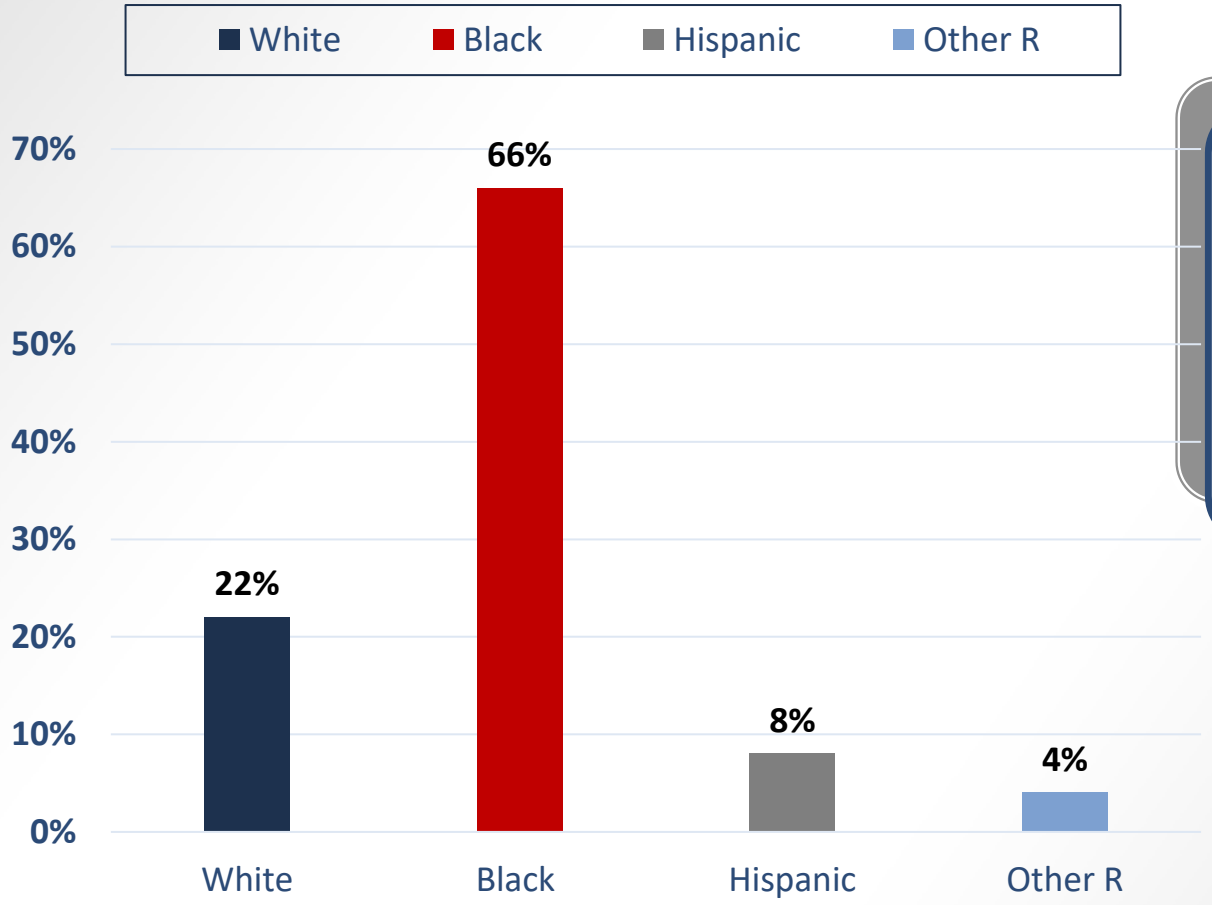
Approved for Court & Adjudication: FY21-22



	Total		White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Approved for Court	19,798		4,811	12,383	1,764	840
Adjudication	5,899		1,987	3,047	667	198

Total Complaints – 32,905

YDC Confinement: FY21-22

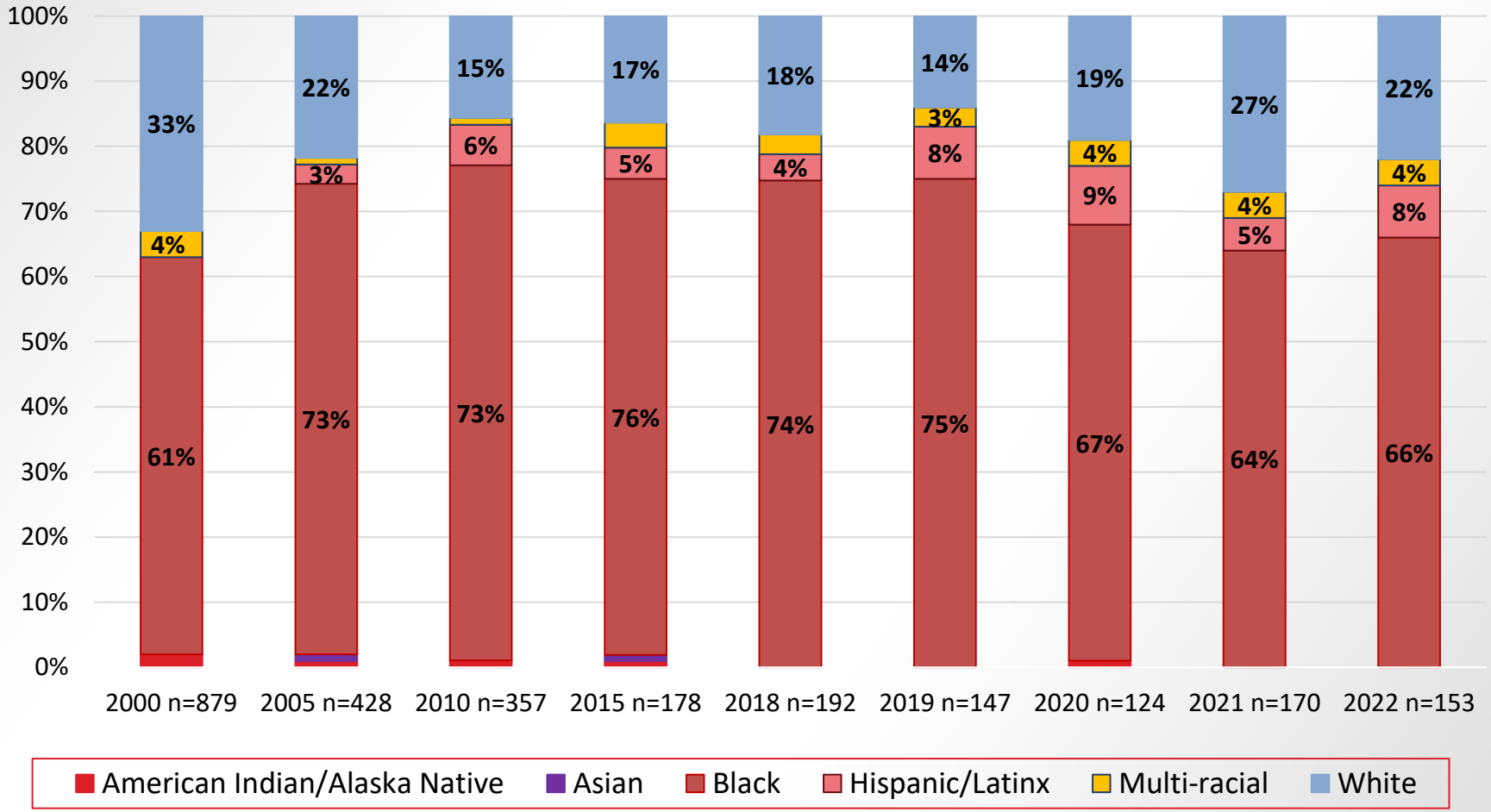


Confinement Total - 153	
White	33
Black	101
Hispanic	12
Other Races	7

Delinquent Complaints Only

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

NC YDC Commitments 2000-2022

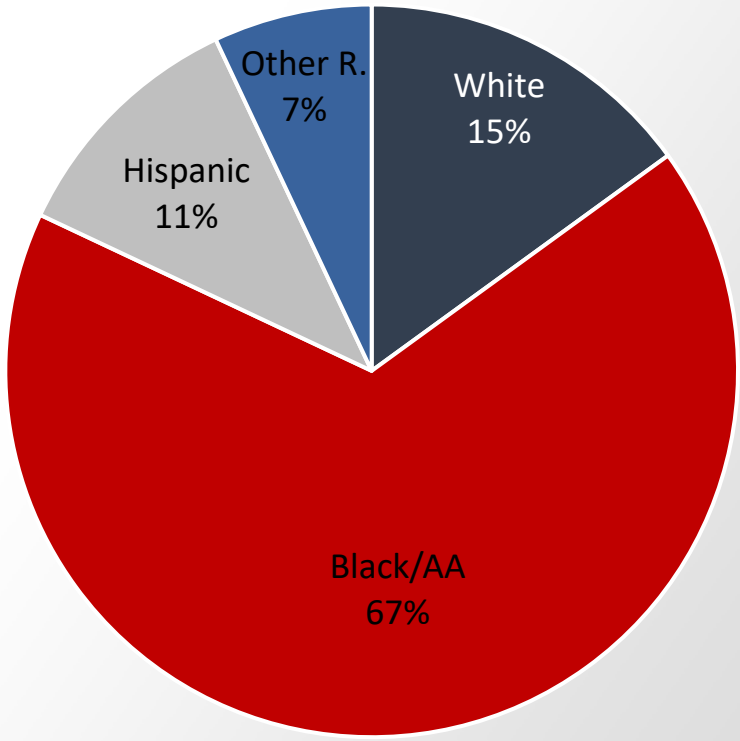


Transfer AC: FY21-22

Transfer AC Percentages by Race

Race	Transfer AC Race
Total	**344**
White	53
African American	232
Hispanic/Latino	37
Other Races	22

Delinquent Complaints Only



NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

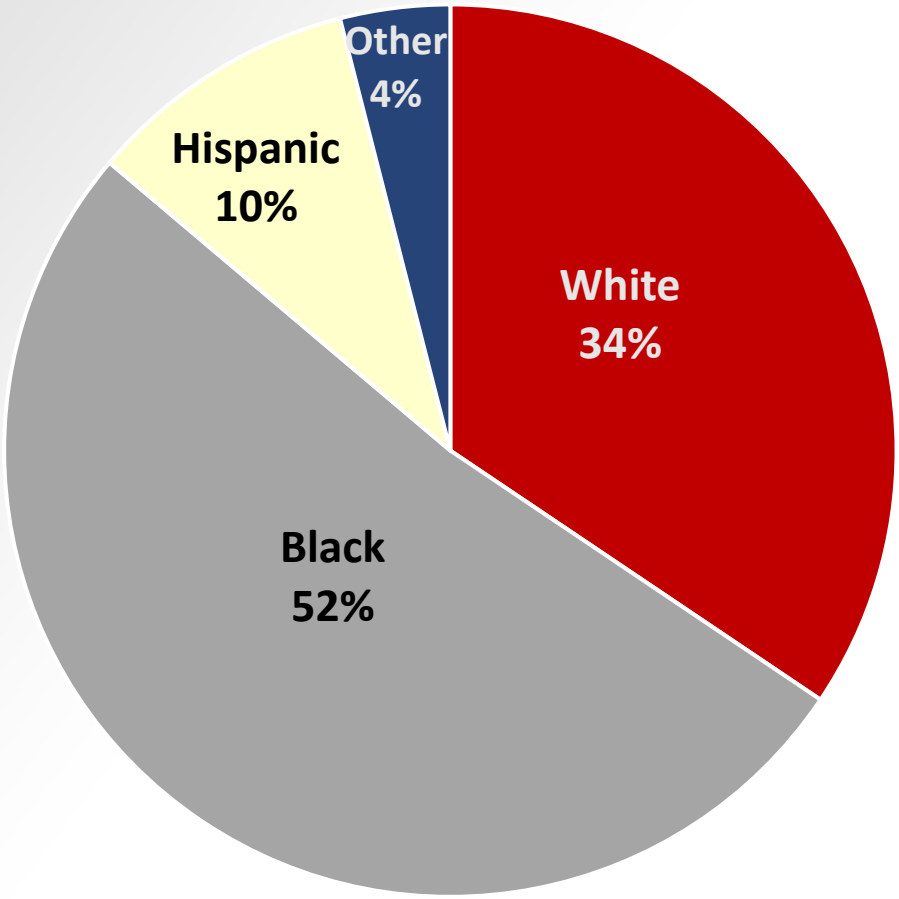
NC School-Based Complaints

School-Based Offenses

By Race & Ethnicity

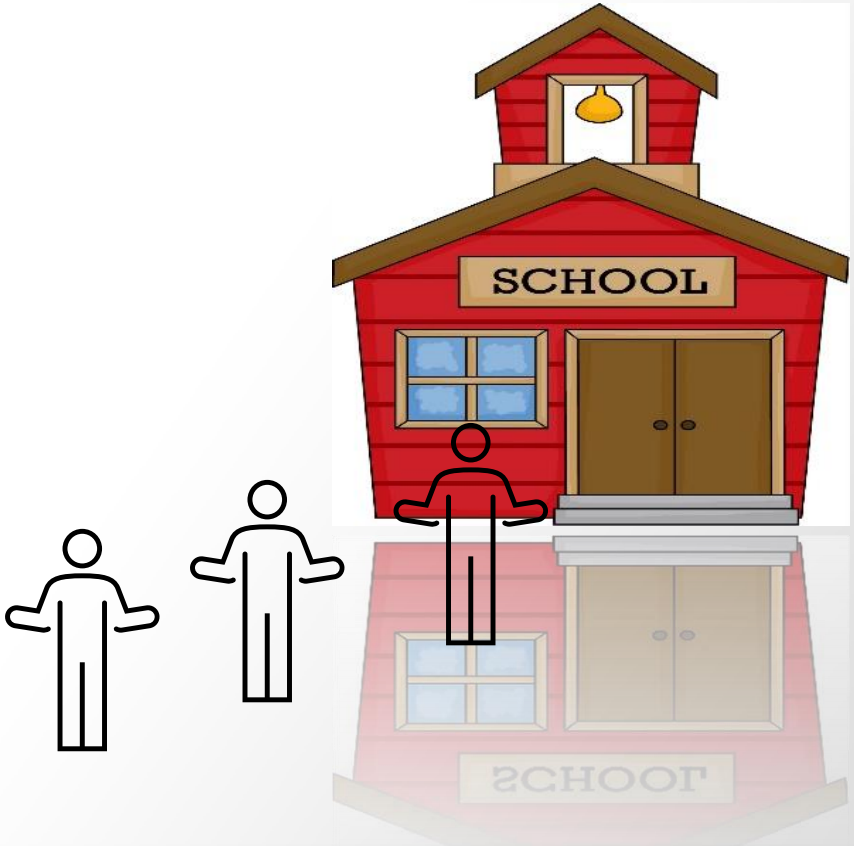
FY 21-22 Statewide School-Based Offenses by Race

Delinquent Complaints Only



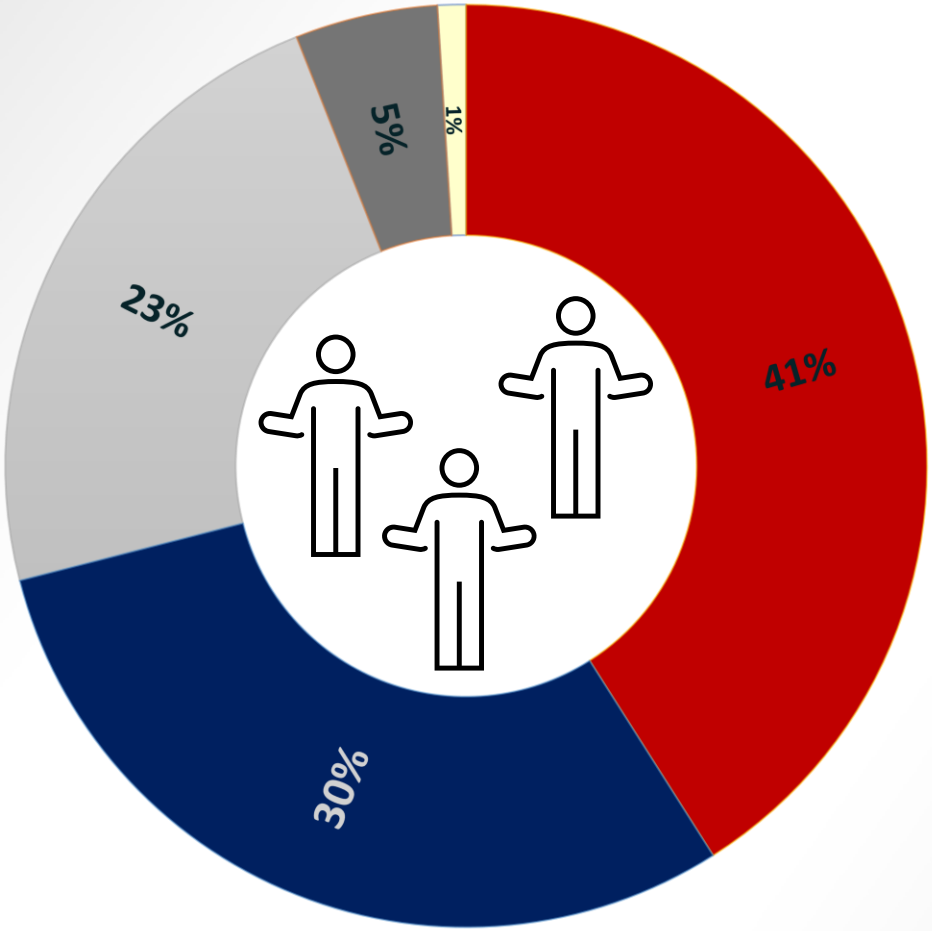
SBO Total = 11,131

Total Complaints - 32,905



FY 21-22: School Based Offenses (SBO) Complaints By Age

Delinquent Complaints Only

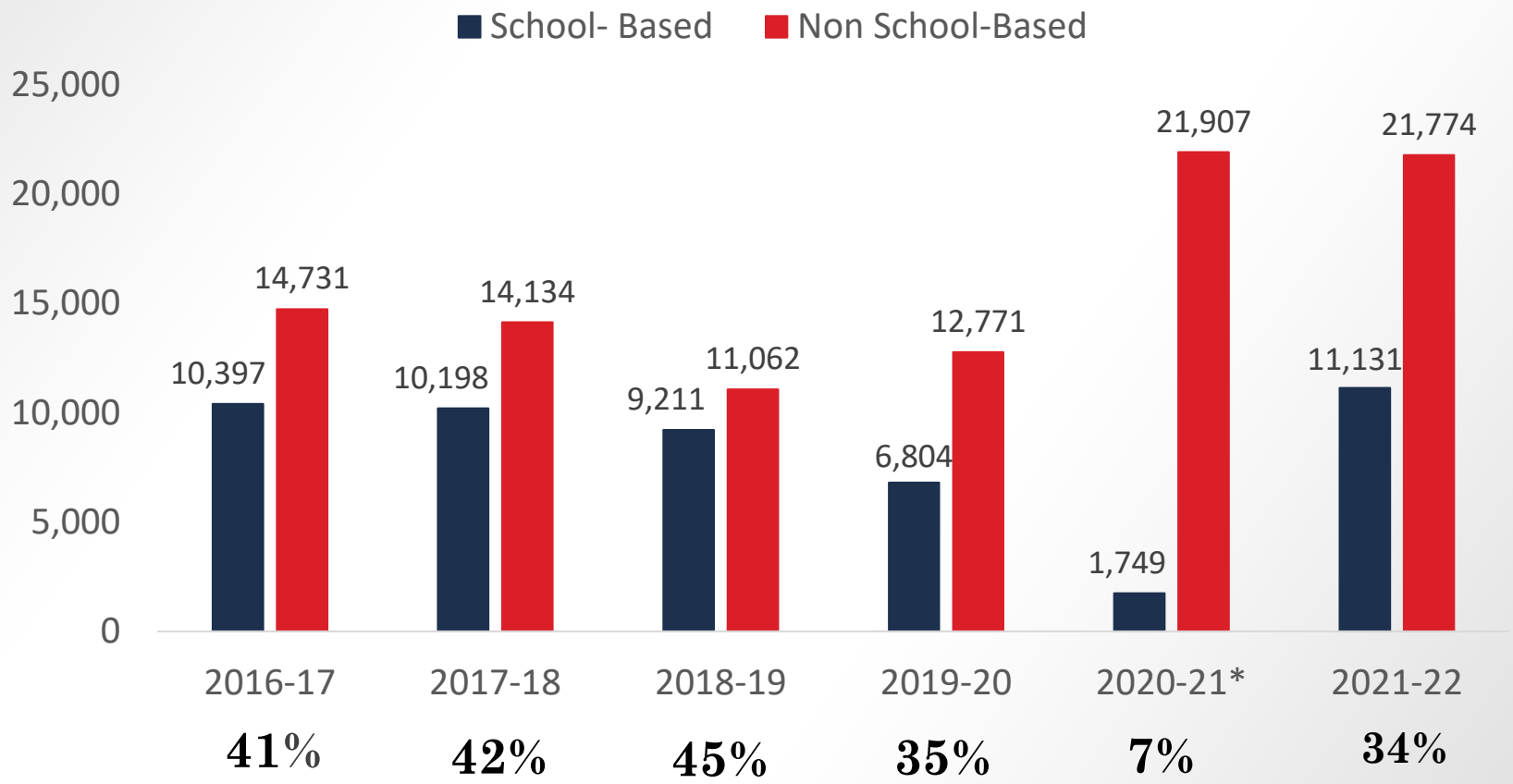


SBO Total - 11,131

NC School-Based & Non-School

Complaints 6-Year Trends

Delinquent Complaints Only

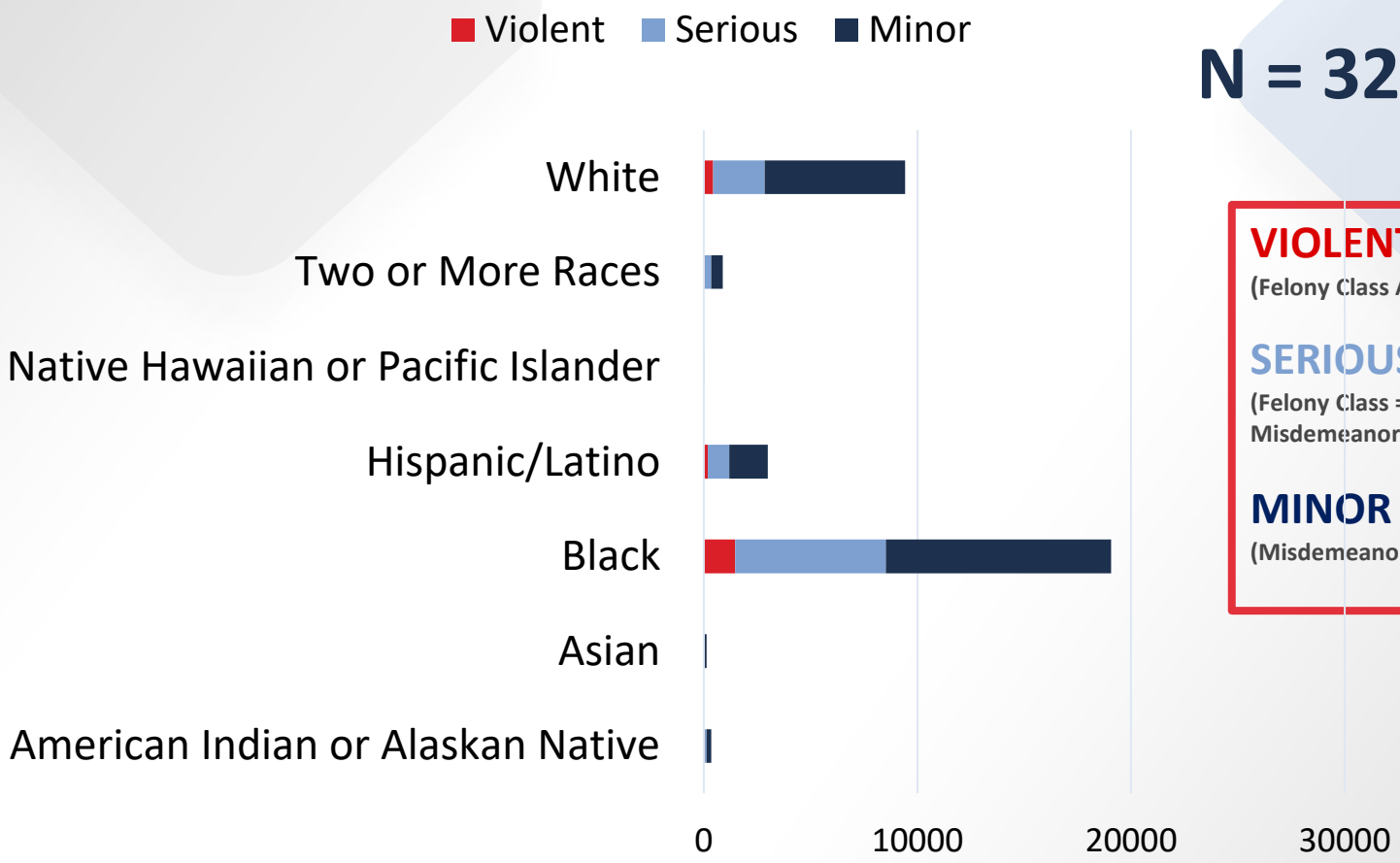


NC-JOIN DATABASE – NCDPS - Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

FY 22 Offense Group

FY 21-22: Statewide Offense Group by Race

Delinquent Complaints Only



N = 32,905

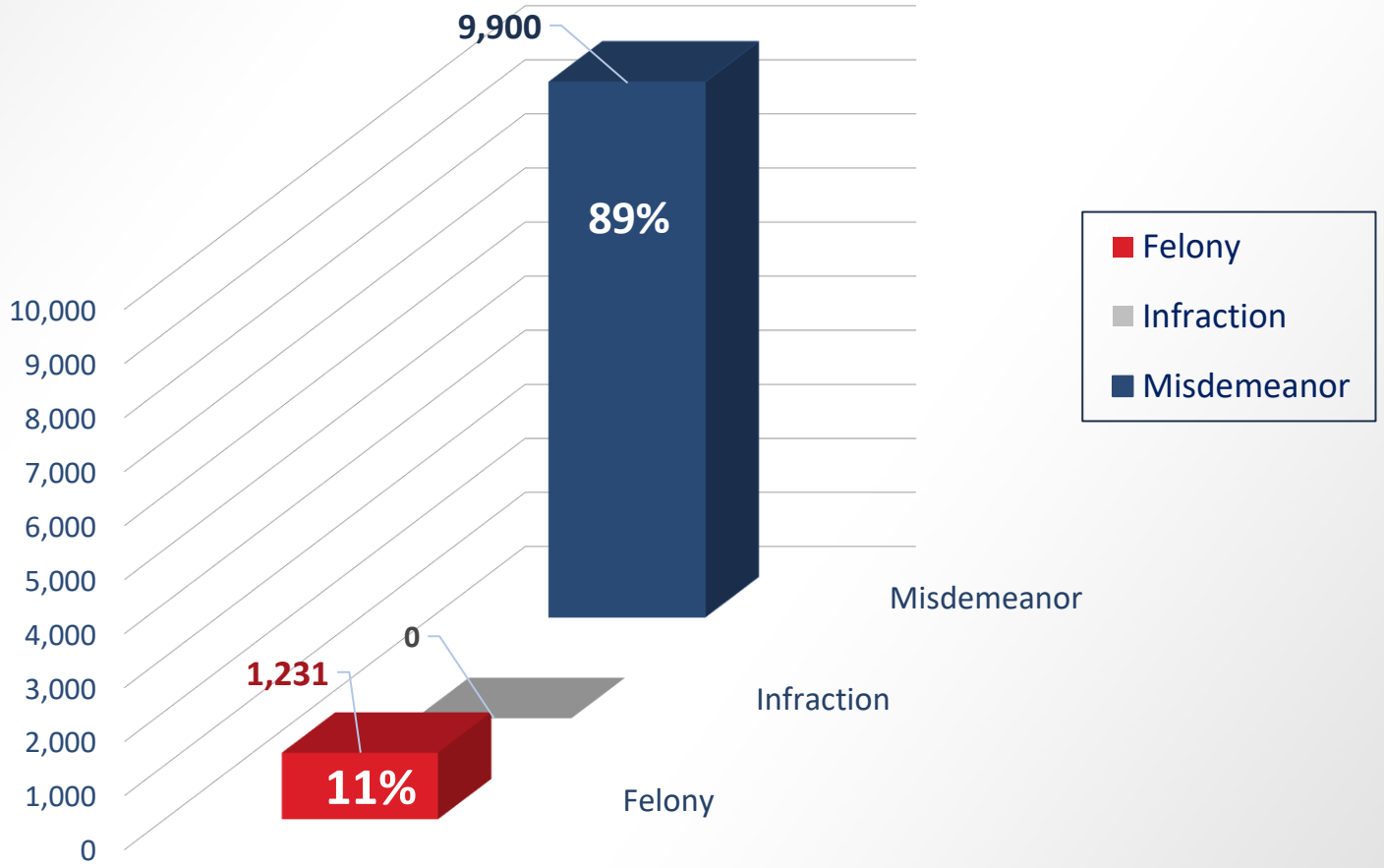
VIOLENT 7%
(Felony Class A-E)

SERIOUS 33%
(Felony Class =- F, G, H, I, and Misdemeanor A1)

MINOR 60%
(Misdemeanor Class 1,2, and 3)

FY 21-22: School Based Offenses (SBO) Complaints By Charge Type

Delinquent Complaints Only



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. PREPARE

Defining the Problem: Orange County Juvenile Justice RED Data FY21-22

Juvenile Justice Data Collection

Population, Contact Points, and School Complaints

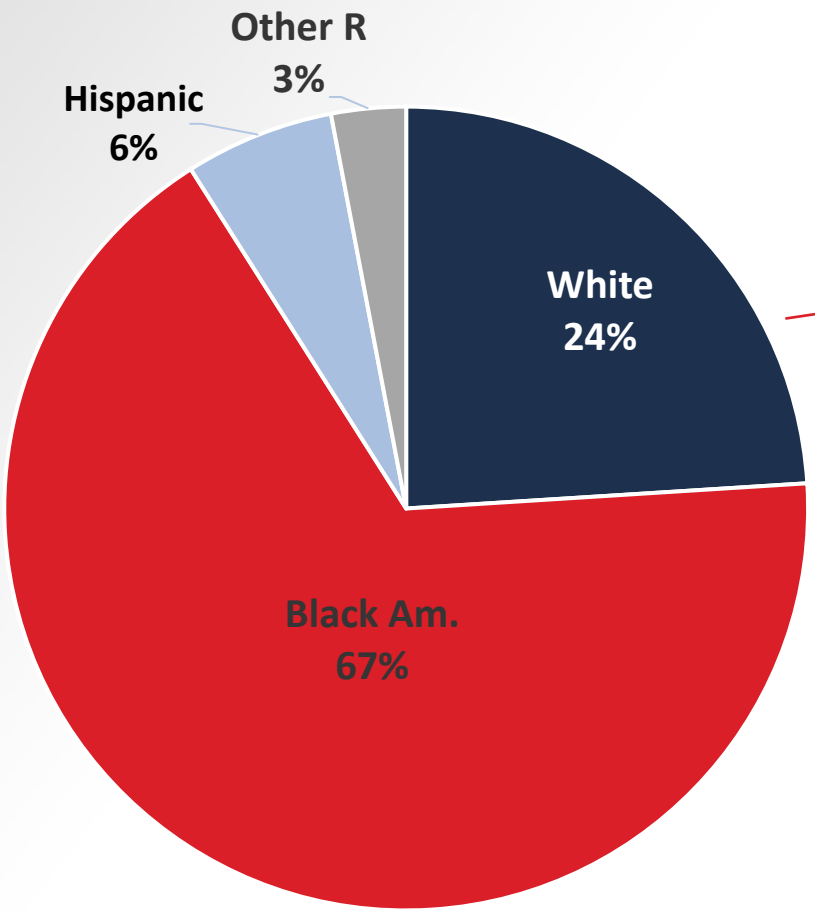
Orange County Youth Population

Population by Race/Ethnicity Ages 6-17

Race	Population*	% Population Ages 6-17
Total	**20,726**	
White	12,681	61%
Black American	2,444	**12%**
Hispanic/Latino	3,412	**16%**
Asian	2,118	10%
Native Am.	83	0.34%

https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/

Orange County Delinquent Complaints: FY21-22



*Juveniles – 103

Total – 316

Orange Co. Youth Population
by Race/Ethnicity

Total	**20,726**	
White	12,681	61%
Black American	2,444	**12%**
Hispanic/Latino	3,412	16%
Asian	2,118	10%

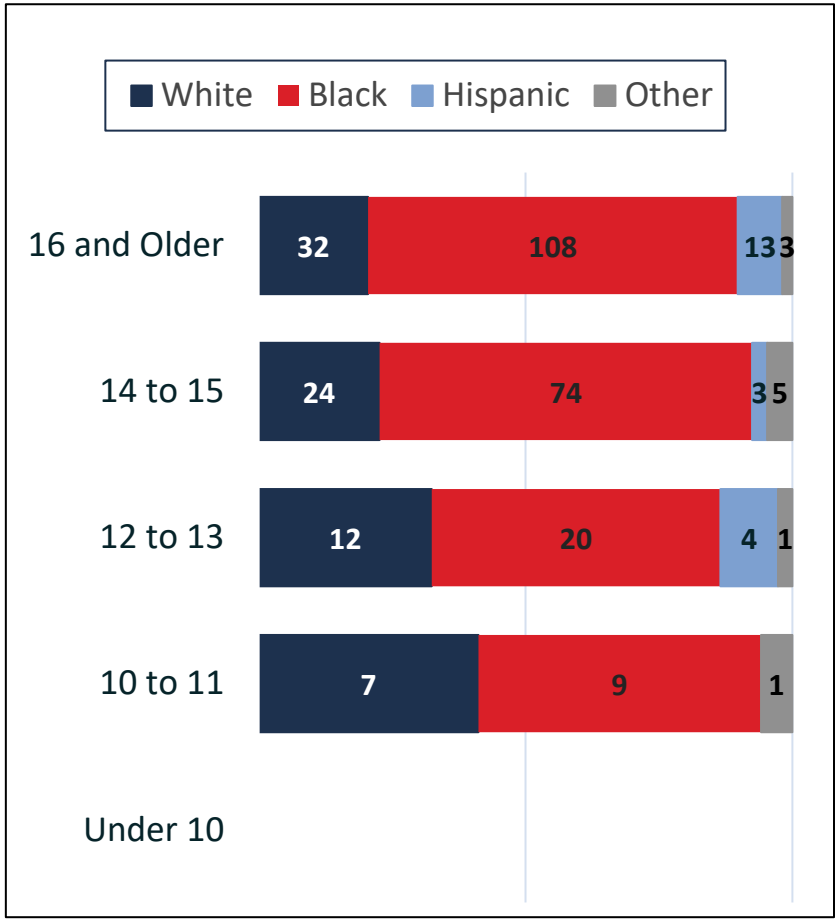
RRI – 5.07

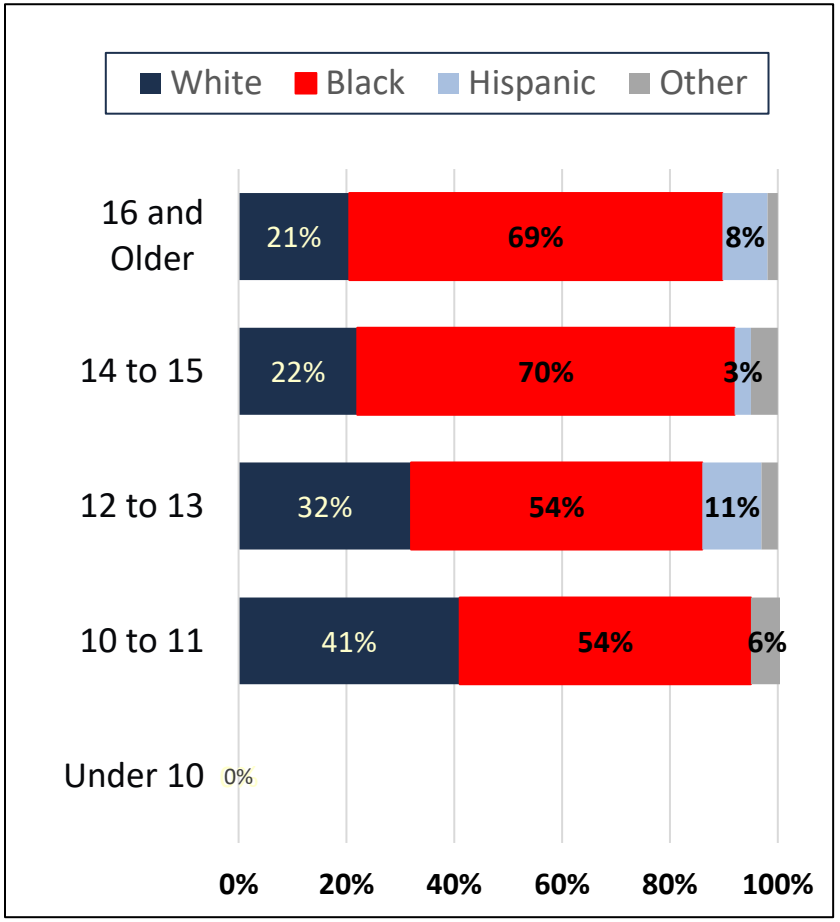
(Youth of Color are 5 times more likely to receive a complaint than their white counterpart in Orange County).

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

FY 21-22 Orange CO. Complaints by Race/Ethnicity & Age

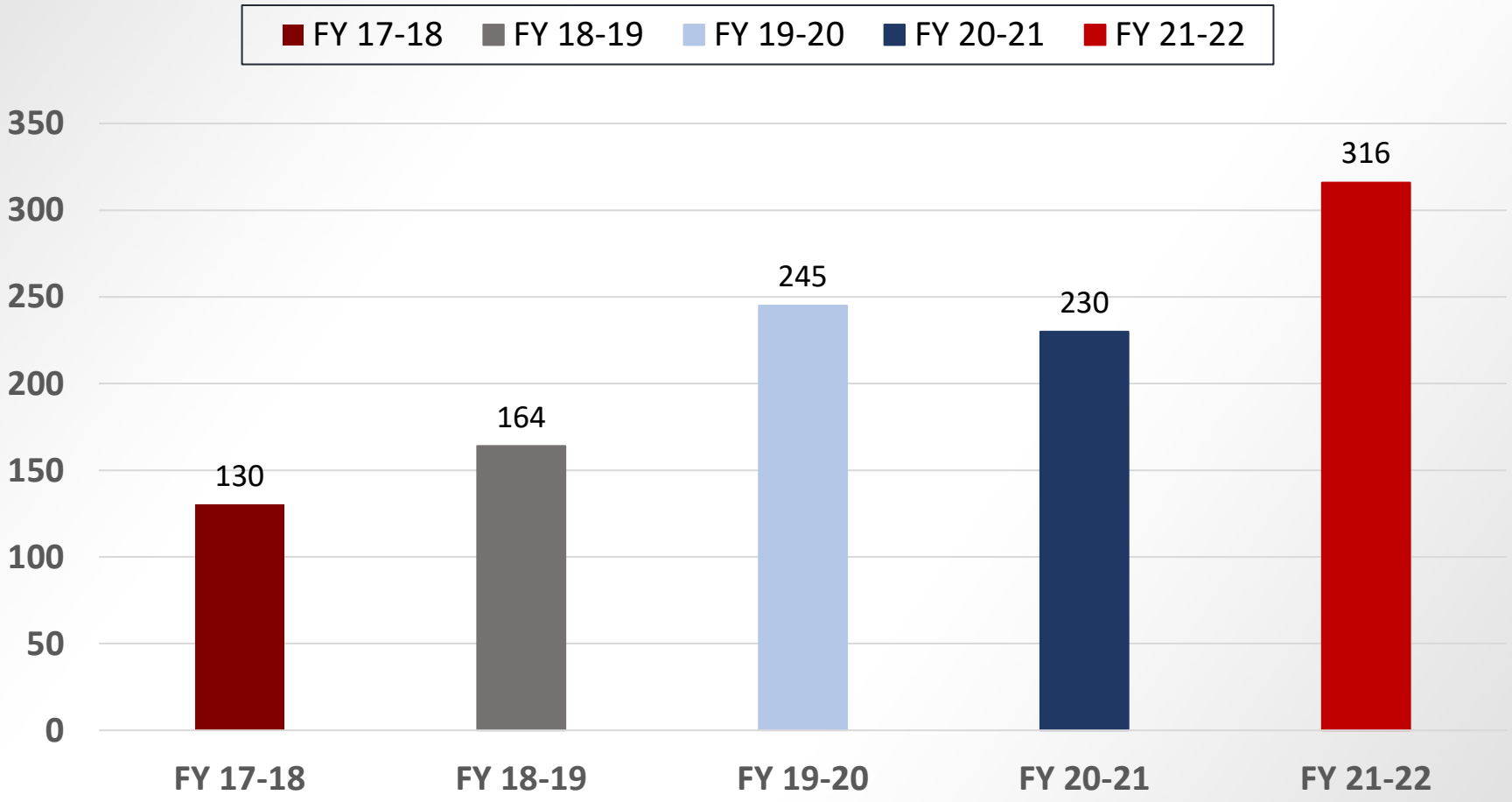
Delinquent Complaints Only



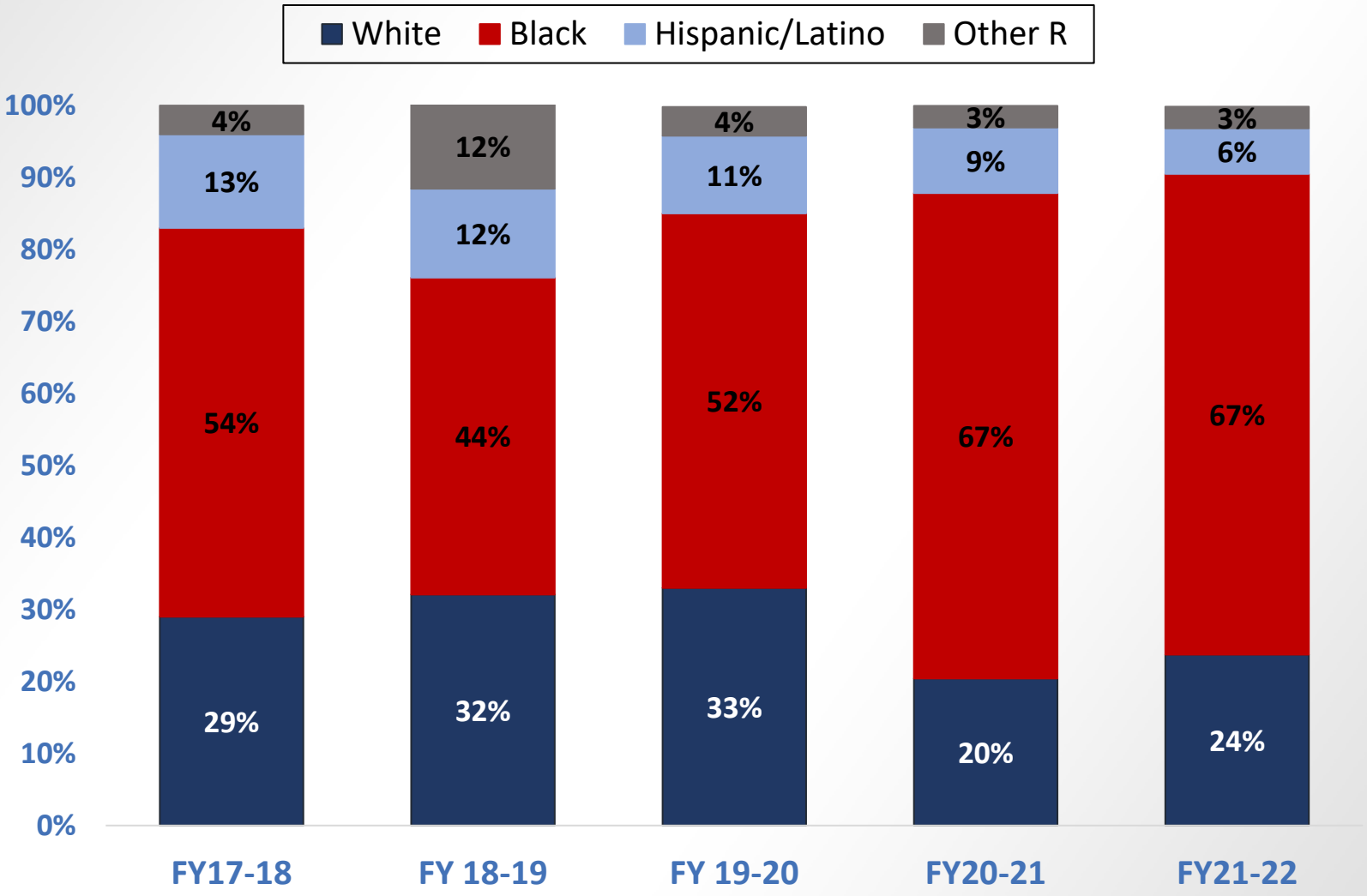


NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

Orange Co. Complaints 5-Year Trends

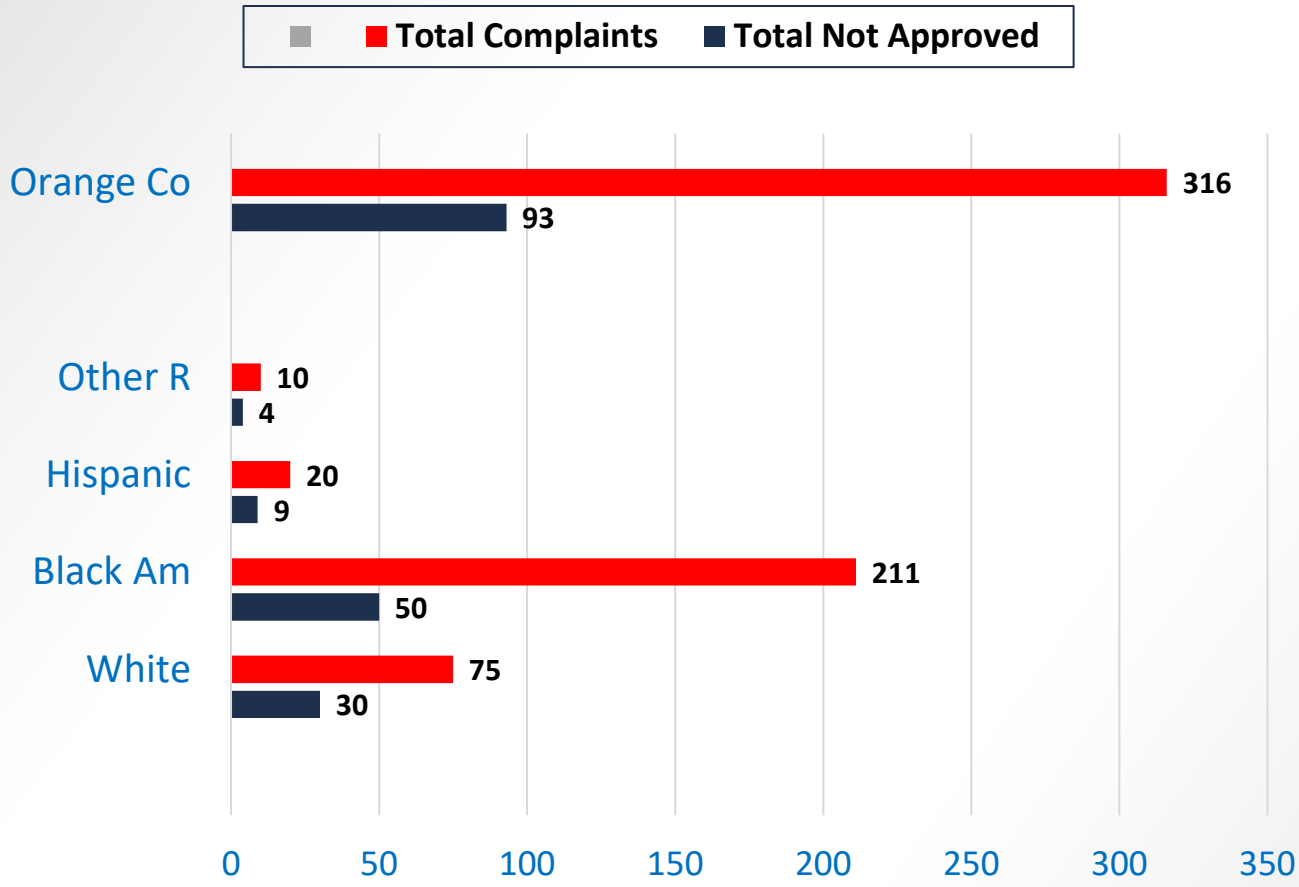


Orange Co. Complaints 5-Year Trends By Race



Orange CO. Complaints Not Approved by Race/Ethnicity:

Delinquent Complaints Only



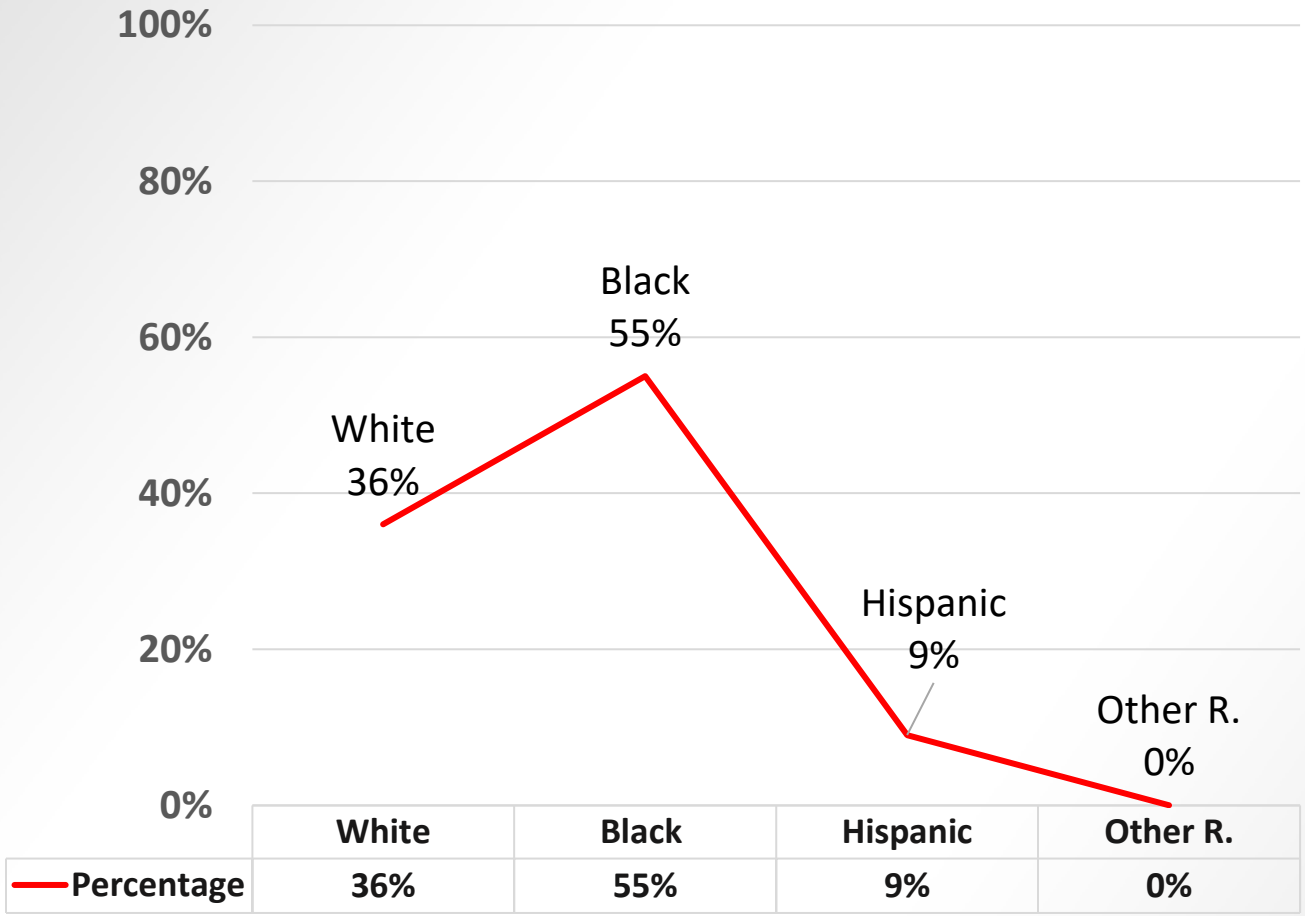
% of Complaints
Not Approved

White	40%
Black Am.	**24%**
Hispanic	45%
Other R.	40%

Orange County – 29%

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

Orange CO. Detention Placement: FY21-22



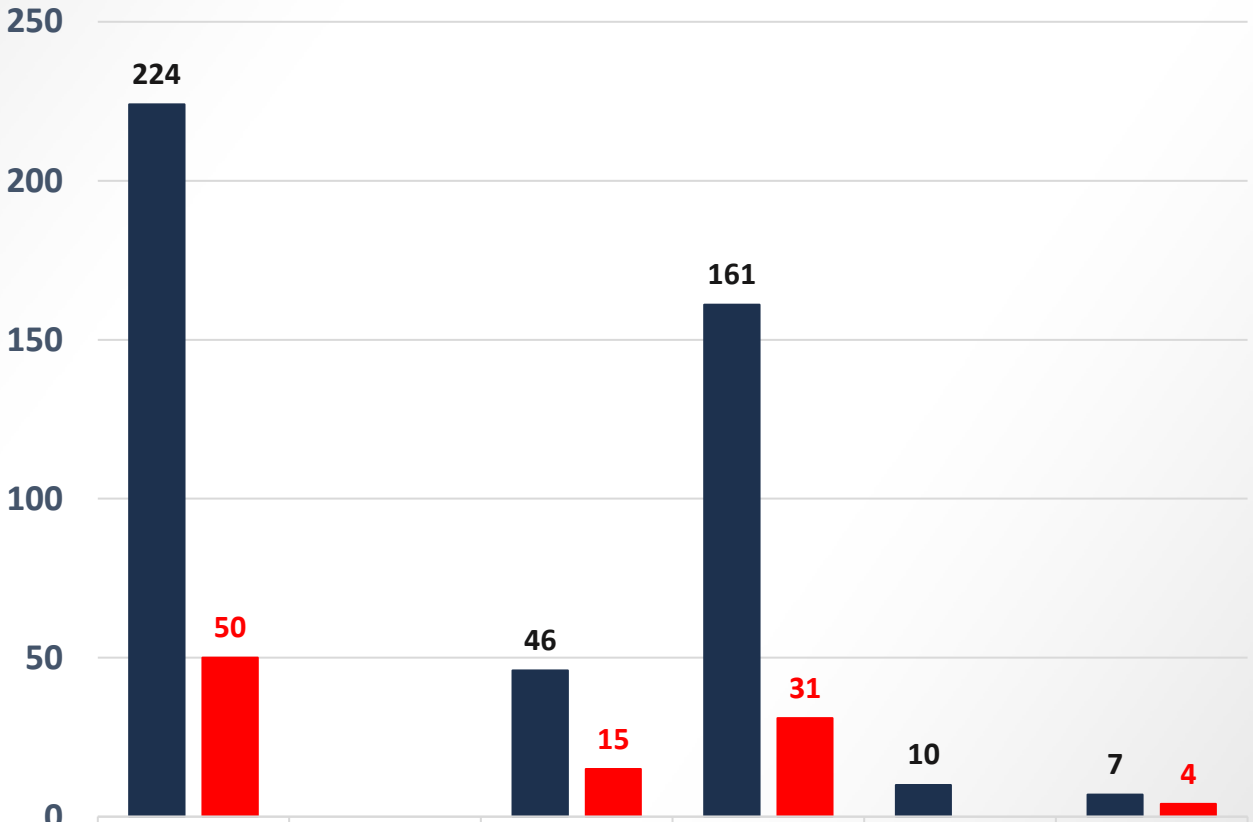
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other R.
Percentage	36%	55%	9%	0%

Detention Total - 22	
White	8
Black	**12**
Hispanic	2
Other Races	

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

Orange CO. Approved for Court & Adjudication: FY21-22

Delinquent Complaints Only



	Total		White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Approved for Court	224		46	161	10	7
Adjudication	50		15	31	0	4

Orange CO. Transfer AC: FY21-22

Transfer AC Percentages by Race

Race	Transfer AC Ages 6-17	% Transfer AC per Race Group
Total	**5**	
White	0	0%
African American	4	80%
Hispanic/Latino	1	20%
Other R.	0	0%

Delinquent Complaints Only

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

Orange County School-Based Complaints

School-Based Offenses

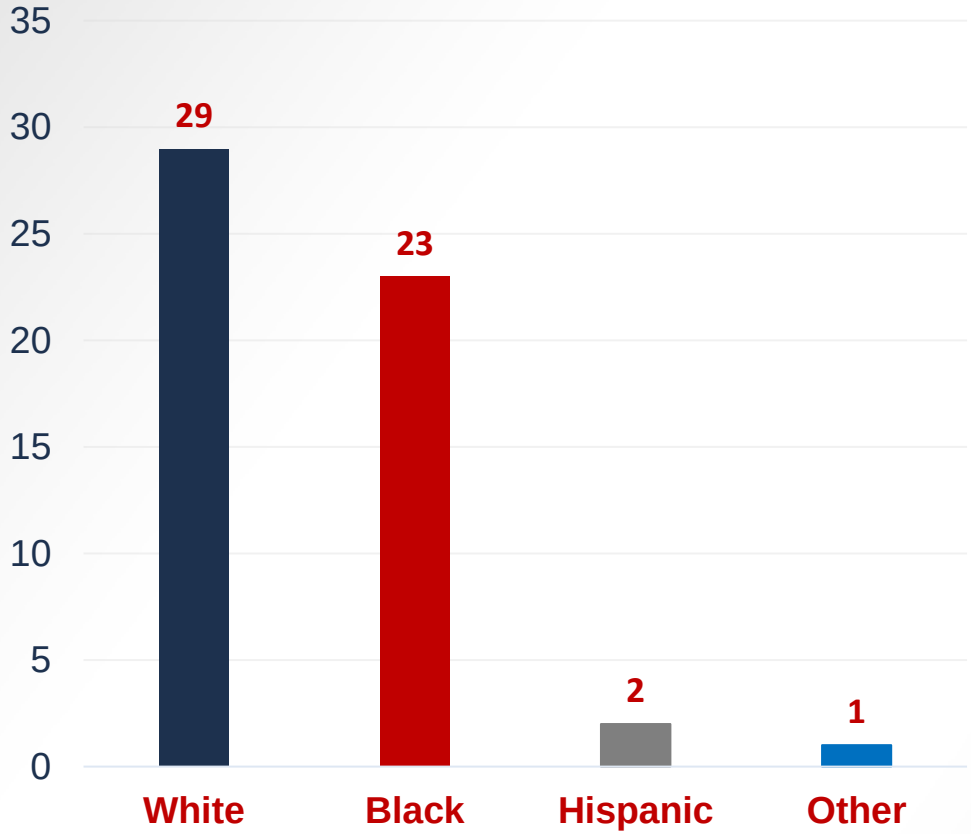
By Race & Ethnicity

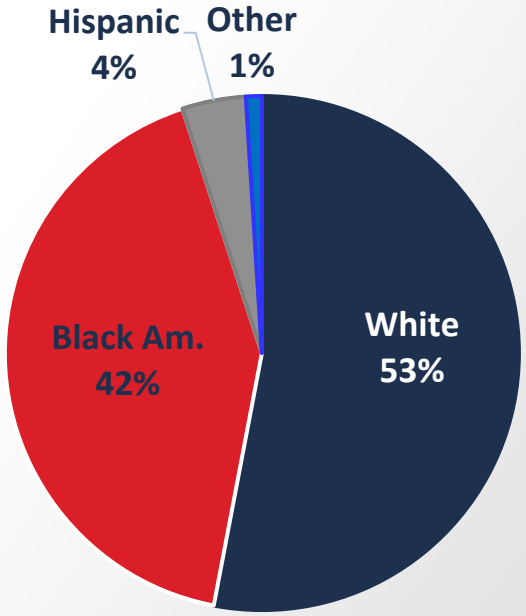
FY 21-22 Orange Co. School-Based Offenses

Delinquent Complaints Only

SBO Total – 55

Complaint Total – 316





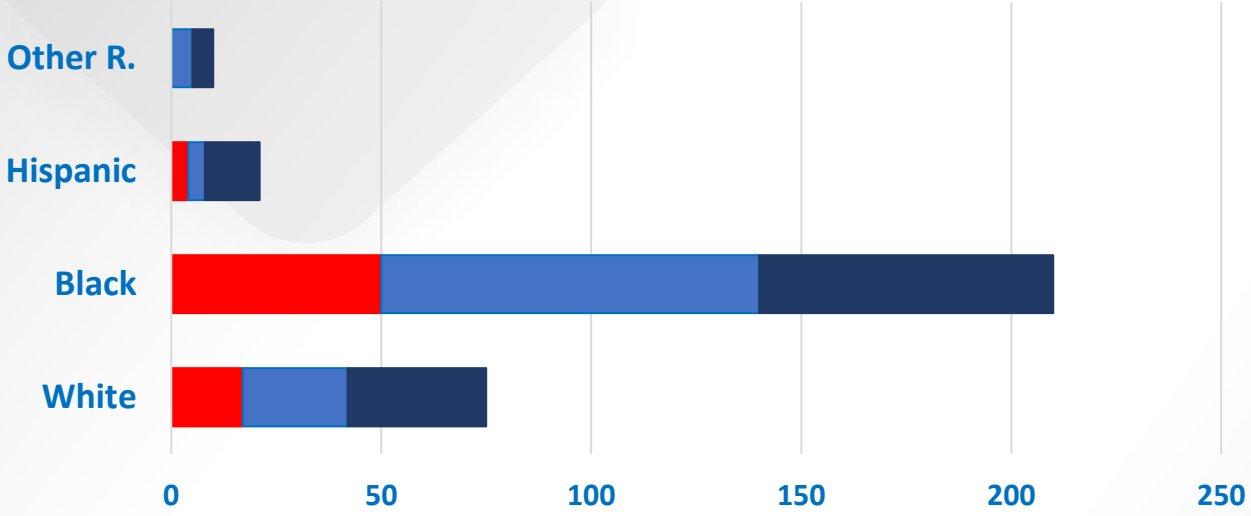
NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

FY 22 Offense Group Orange County

FY 21-22: Orange CO. Offense Group by Race

Delinquent Complaints Only

N = 316



	White	Black	Hispanic	Other R.
Violent	17	50	4	0
Serious	25	90	4	5
Minor	33	70	13	5

VIOLENT 23%
(Felony Class A-E)

SERIOUS 39%
(Felony Class =- F, G, H, I, and Misdemeanor A1)

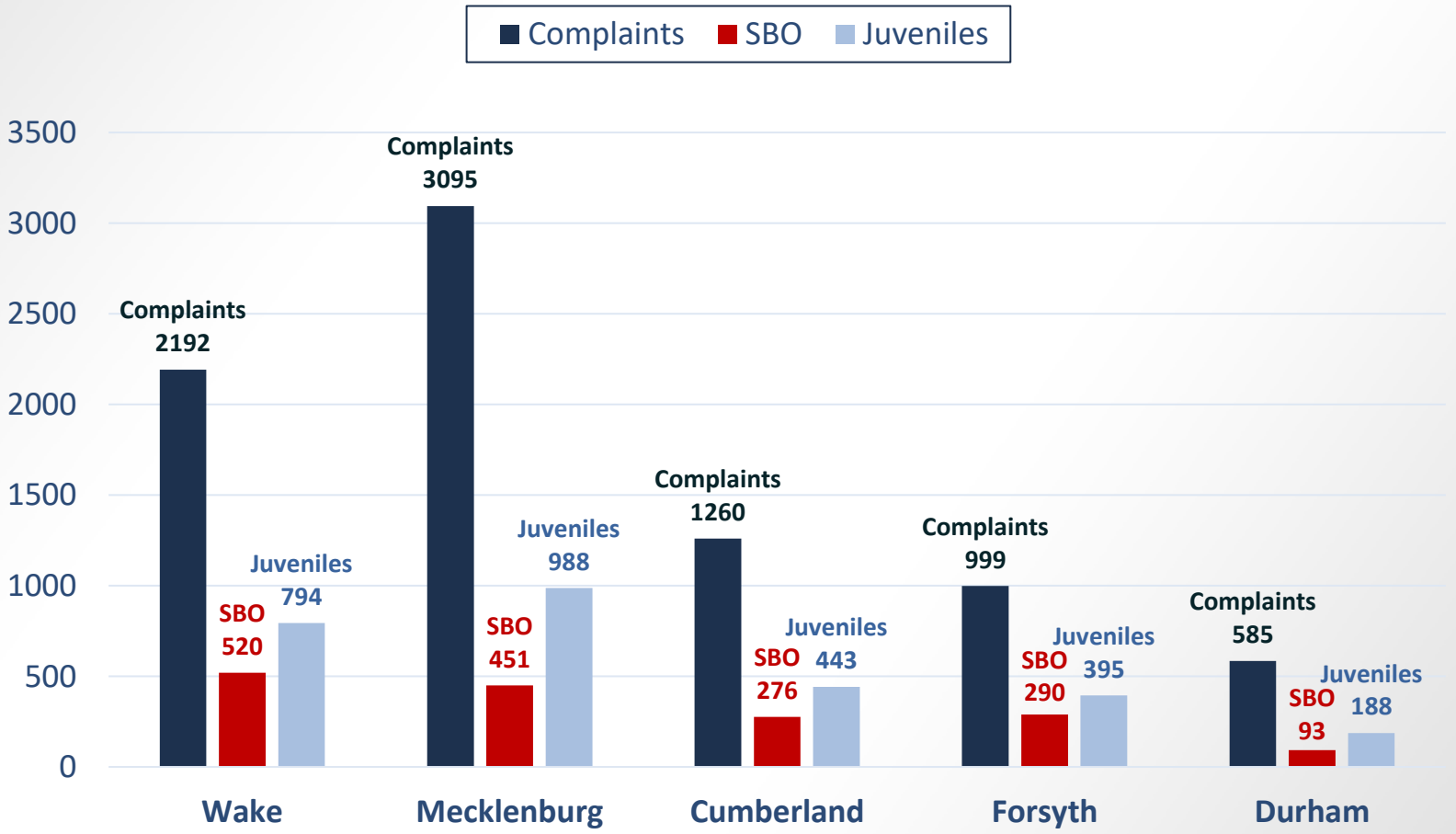
MINOR 38%
(Misdemeanor Class 1,2, and 3)

Complaints, School-Based Offenses, Transfers, and Juveniles Comparisons of Selected Counties

- By Race, Ethnicity, and Volume

FY 21-22: Complaints, School-Based Offense, Juvenile Comparison by Volume of Selected Counties

Delinquent Complaints Only

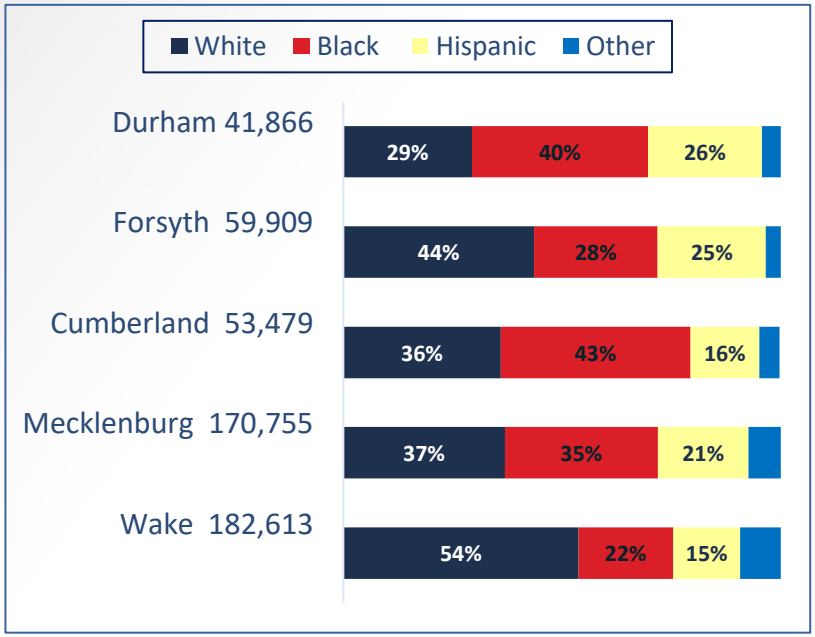


NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

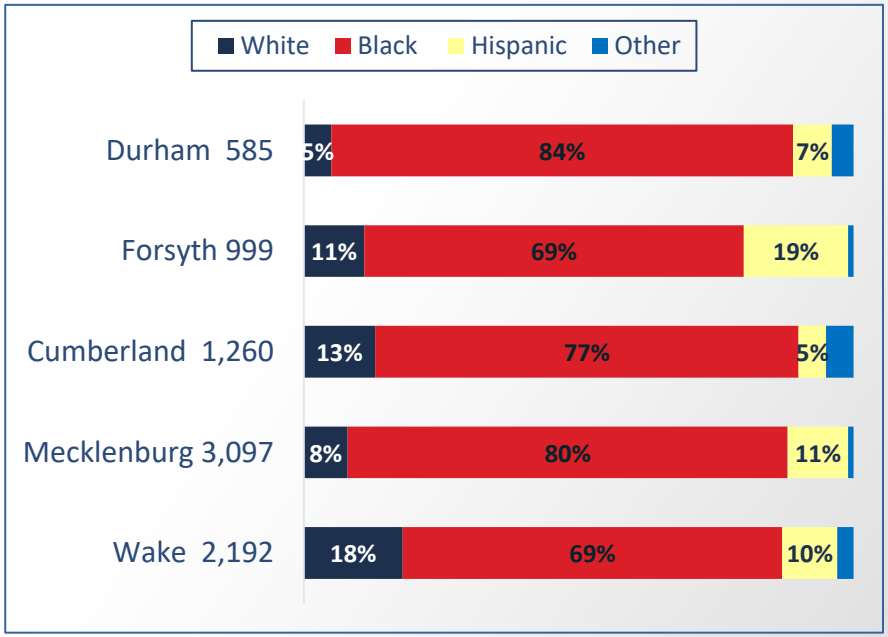
FY 21-22 Population & Complaint Comparison by Race/Ethnicity of Selected Counties

Delinquent Complaints Only

Juvenile **Population** Census by Selected Counties



Juvenile **Complaint** Comparisons by Selected Counties

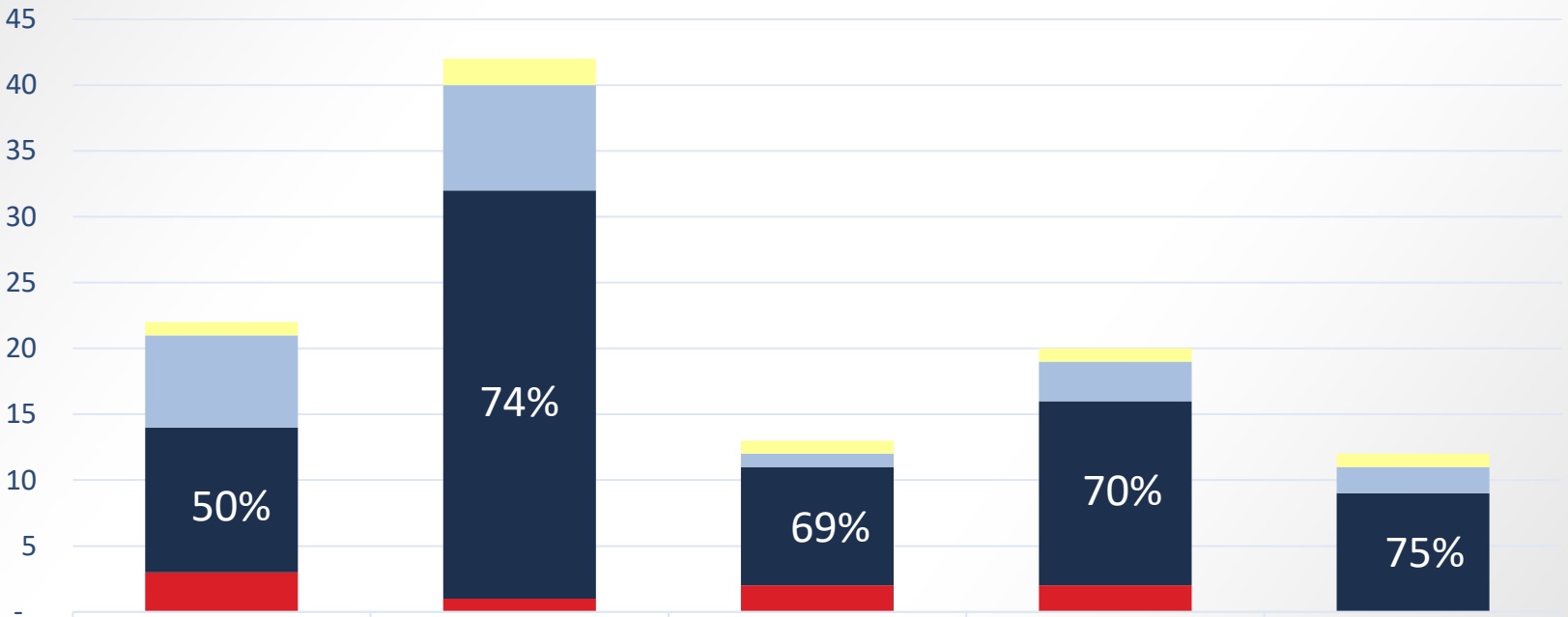


Youth Ages 6-17

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

FY 21-22: Youth Transfer to Adult Court by Race/Ethnicity & Volume of Selected Counties

Delinquent Complaints Only



	Wake - 22	Mecklenburg - 42	Cumberland - 13	Forsyth - 20	Durham - 12
Other	1	2	1	1	1
Hispanic	7	8	1	3	2
Black	11	31	9	14	9
White	3	1	2	2	-

NC-JOIN DATABASE – NC Department of Public Safety - ACJJ

What are you doing with your RED Data?

- Use information in helping law enforcement, judges, community leaders, and other decision makers understand the reality of racial and ethnic disparities within their jurisdictions.
- Discuss with JCPCs the data, to help assist in their annual planning.
- Use data to determine how to best utilize funding dollars.
- Examine resources on hand and determine from the data how to distribute them to ensure all youth have access to the same opportunities.
- Talk to LE share the data; see what their policies are; find out if they are encouraged to divert young people and if there are diversion programs available?
- Ask the community and family what they think. What are you hearing from the young people?

Addressing RED in NC: Current Juvenile Justice Efforts

The RED Section of Court Services' primary role is to assist jurisdictions in reducing the disproportionate representation of youth of color in the NC juvenile justice system.

- **Racial & Ethnic Disparities Data Analysis** - Juvenile Justice statewide data is collected daily, annually, on all 100 counties in North Carolina. Jurisdictions are provided the race and ethnicity data at all key contact points in JJ system.
- **Education and Awareness** - Provide consultation with districts on programming needs and/or services related to YOC populations.
- **JJDPA Compliance** - Work with the Governor's Crime Commission in NC on compliance, as recipients of federal delinquency prevention funding for program and services for these youth. Members serve on the GCC RED Subcommittee.
- **Grant Management** – Solicit and apply for grants related to reducing RED through any of the reduction strategies identified, to include assisting jurisdictions with grant applications.
- **Juvenile Minority Sensitivity Training (JMST)** – Ensure that the annual training, which is legislatively mandated for juvenile justice involved staff, includes topics related to current issues face by youth of color.

JJ Juvenile Justice
Working Together to Strengthen North Carolina's Youth and Families

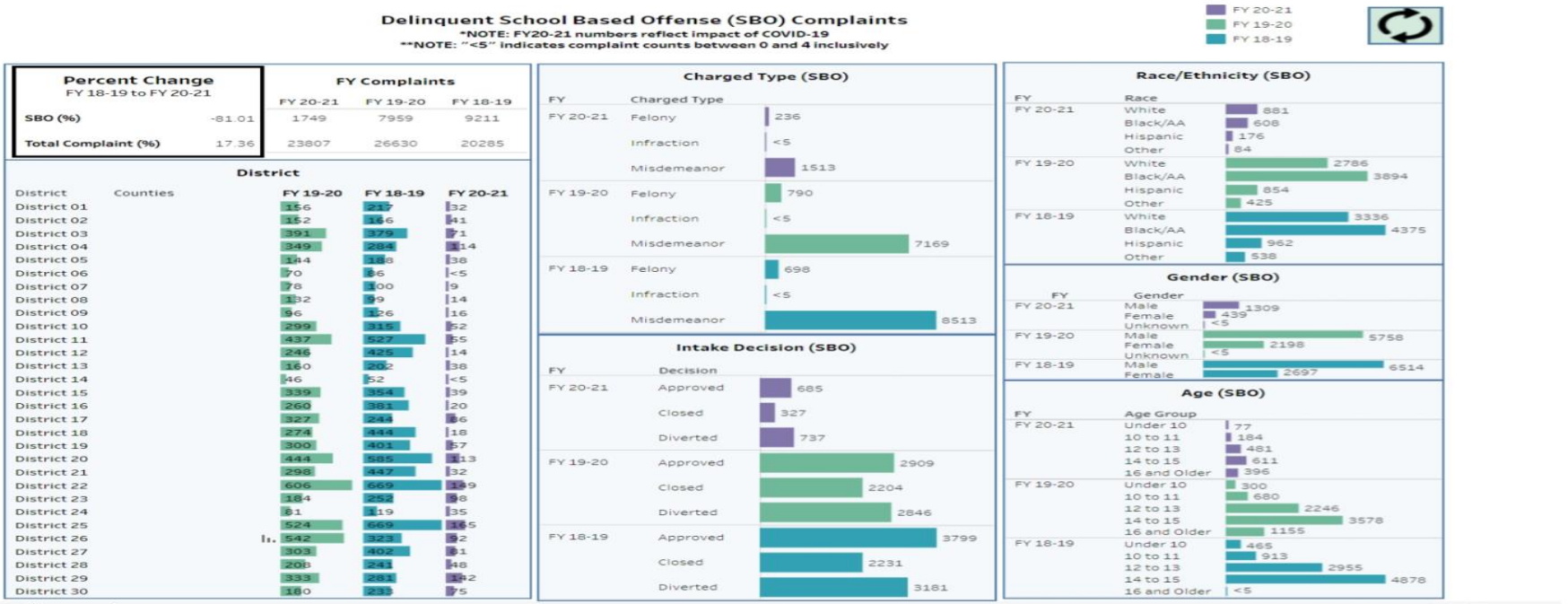
School Justice Partnerships

- DJJDP actively supports and promotes the development of SJPs throughout NC, and
  - Collaborates with stakeholders on policy changes via JJAC.
  - Released the “SJP Dashboard” in 2021.

SJP School Justice Partnership NORTH CAROLINA

SILVER ALERT - A Silver Alert has been issued for Joel Lopez-Hernandez by the N.C. Center for Missing Persons Read More

School-Justice Partnership dashboard



To find instructions on how to be use this dashboard, as well as terminology definitions, please review the School-Justice Partnership dashboard tips and tricks

DPS website: https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/juvenile-justice/dashboards

8 REDuction Strategies

1. Focus on Data and Utilization.
2. Increasing collaboration with other state & local agencies, police, judges, and the community.
3. Changing culture away from punitive or procedural focus toward a focus that's best for the youth and community.
4. Affiliate with National JJ (Youth Justice) Reform Initiatives.
5. Creating alternative to detention, secure confinement, and formal system involvement.
6. Intentional focus has to be on **RED** reduction
7. Leadership at both state & local levels.
8. Making **RED** a Long-Term Priority.

Case Studies of Nine Jurisdictions that Reduced Disproportionate Minority Contact in their Juvenile Justice Systems. https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/grants/250301.pdf

ANY QUESTIONS ?

For RED Information and/or Training, contact:

Crystal Wynn-Lewis, MPA
Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Coordinator
Division of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP)
Crystal.Wynn-Lewis@ncdps.gov
919-324-6403

Bonus slide

Relative Rate Index (RRI)

The RRI is A rate of comparison which provides some context by dividing occurrences at decision points by the number of youth in the general population.

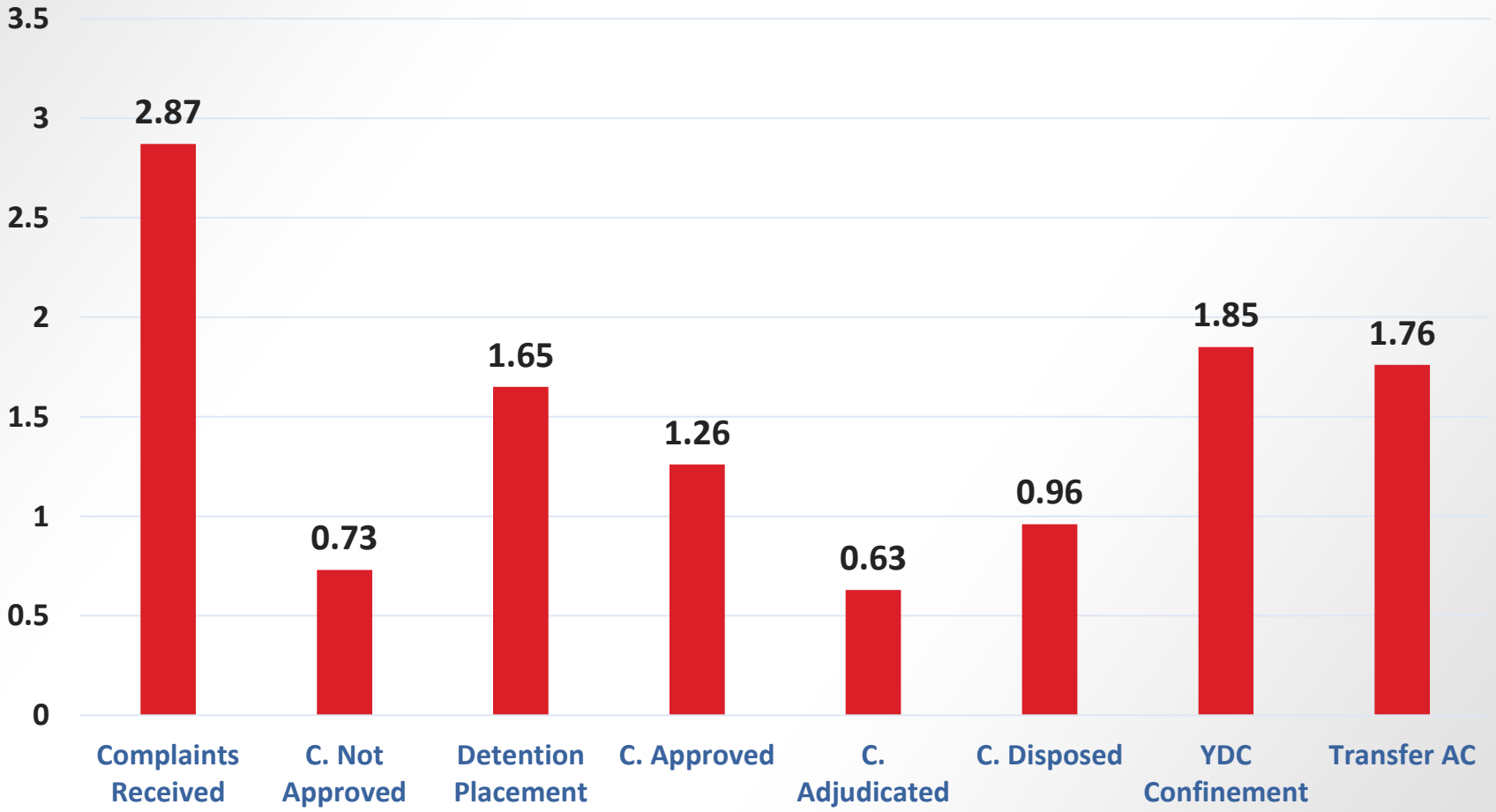
An RRI of 1.0 shows proportionality. Disproportionality is determined when the RRI is Greater than > 1 in all JJ Contact Points, except for **Not Approved** and **Cases Disposed**. These two points suggest disproportionality when the RRI is Less than < 1.

Rate of Delinquency Complaints for Whites: 21.5 for every 1,000 White youth aged 6-15 in NC.

Rate of Delinquency Complaints for Blacks: 65.1 for every 1,000 Black youth aged 6-15 in NC.

$$\frac{65.1 \text{ (Black Rate)}}{21.5 \text{ (White Rate)}}$$

RRI = 3.027

Black youth are 3 times more likely to have a delinquency complaint as compared to their White counterparts.

FY 21-22: Statewide Relative Rate Index