The goal of IOYouth is to help Sonoma answer key questions about its juvenile justice system to improve its effectiveness.

What are the recidivism rates, violations rates, and other outcomes for youth across Sonoma County's juvenile justice continuum?

Are youth matched with the appropriate level, type, and quality of supervision and services based on their risk and needs?

Is Sonoma using its resources efficiently to provide effective services and using data to evaluate progress and guide system decisions?

Sonoma County established a task force to oversee and guide the IOYouth initiative.

- Monique Brown, Conservation Corp North Bay

- Bill Carter, Behavioral Health Division Director

- Karen Fies, Human Services Director

- Vanessa Fuchs, Deputy Chief Probation Officer

- Ken Gnoss, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge

- Greyson Gunheim, VOICES Sonoma

- Rob Halverson, Research and Program Manager

- Nick Klein, County Administrators Officer

- David Koch, Chief Probation Officer

- Georgia Ioakimedes, Alternative Education Director, Sonoma County Office of Education

- Brad Michnevich, Juvenile Services Division Director II

- Marty Mitchell, Juvenile Hall Division Director II

- Ray Navarro, Chief, Santa Rosa Police Department

- Kathleen Pozzi, Public Defender

- Jill Ravitch, District Attorney

- Melissa Segura, Probation Camp Division Director I

- Lisa Valente, Keeping Kids in School Program Manager

Case-level and survey data from multiple sources informed the assessment results.

Data	Source
Arrest Data (aggregate)	California Department of Justice Open Justice Website
Juvenile Population Data (aggregate)	Easy Access to Juvenile Populations, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Referral, Case Status, and Charges Data	Sonoma County Probation Department
Detention Assessment, Intakes, Daily Population, Detention Status Detail	
Caseload History	
Contracted Services	
PACT and Case Plans	
Survey Data	Juvenile Probation Camp Staff & Supervisors Juvenile Probation Officers & Supervisors Juvenile Hall Staff & Supervisors

Since the launch of the initiative, CSG Justice Center staff have spoken with a wide array of Sonoma County stakeholders.

| Juvenile Hall Leadership and Line Staff | Juvenile Probation Camp Leadership and Line Staff | Youth in Juvenile Hall and Probation Camp | Juvenile Probation Officers and Supervisors |

| Law Enforcement | Chief Juvenile Judge | Public Defenders | District Attorneys |

| Parents | Service Providers | Juvenile Probation Department Leadership |

Principle 1: The risk, need, and responsivity framework can help juvenile correctional agencies to improve outcomes for youth.

Risk Principle — Identify and focus supervision and services on those youth most likely to reoffend

Need Principle — Identify and address the key needs that drive youth's delinquent behaviors

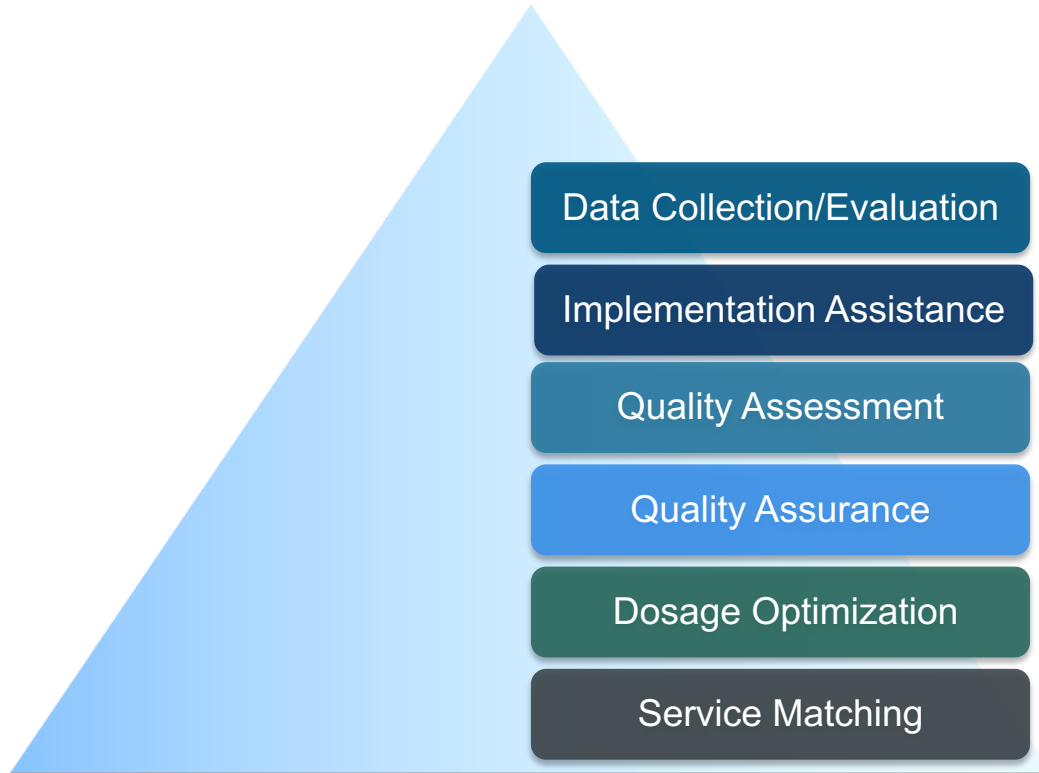**Responsivity Principle** — Match youth to services based on their strengths and how they respond to treatment

VALIDATED RISK ASSESSMENT

A **risk assessment** is an evaluation of both dynamic and static factors that estimate risk of recidivism. A risk assessment is considered **validated** if it has statistically been proven through multiple research studies to demonstrate a high level of accuracy in predicting whether youth will reoffend.

Principle 2: Research-based services that address youths' key needs are critical to improve youth outcomes.

Intervention	Impact on Recidivism	# of Studies in Meta-Analysis
Sanctions Alone	7% Increase	30
Inappropriate Treatment	6% Increase	38
Intensive Supervision (without Treatment)	7% Decrease	47
Appropriate Treatment	30% Decrease	54

Service use, quality assurance, and oversight processes are necessary to ensure that programs are implemented effectively.

Data Collection/Evaluation

Implementation Assistance

Quality Assessment

Quality Assurance

Dosage Optimization

Service Matching

Principle 3: Collaborate across systems to address youths' needs in facilities and to promote continuity of care.

60 to 70 percent of youth in confinement have a **mental illness**

25 to 50 percent of confinement youth have a **substance use disorder**

65 percent of the youth under supervision have past/current involvement in the **child welfare system**

More than **50 percent** of confined youth have reading and math skills significantly below their grade level, have repeated a grade, and have been suspended or expelled

Principle 4: A developmentally appropriate approach can help youth to transition to a crime-free and productive adulthood.

Youth Are Developmentally Different from Adults

- Their families, peers, schools, and communities have a significant influence on their beliefs and actions

- They engage in risky behaviors and fail to account for the long-term consequences of their decisions

- They are relatively insensitive to degrees of punishment

- They struggle to regulate their impulses and emotions

After reviewing decades of research, the National Academy of Sciences concluded that a developmentally appropriate approach offers significant promise for improved youth outcomes.
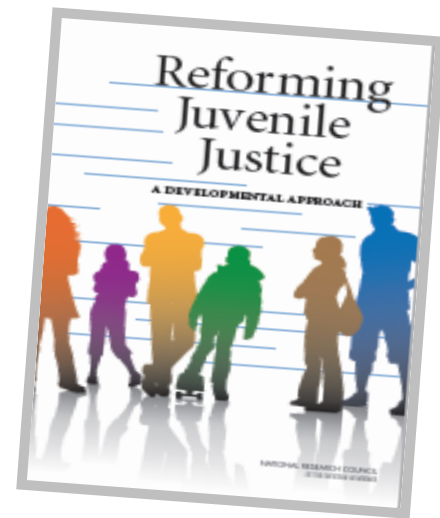
Juvenile justice systems and programs that involve, engage, and support families experience better outcomes.

- Define family broadly and identify youth's support system

- Families as required members in case planning and case decisions

- Family therapy and supports

- Family engagement specialists

- Family policy committees, advisory groups, and surveys

Facility management and community supervision should focus on promoting positive youth behavior change.

Focus on Only Surveillance	Focus on Positive Behavior Change
Laundry list of supervision conditions	Developmentally appropriate conditions
Fixed and uniform case contact requirements	Contact requirements based on youths' assessed risk level
No collateral contact requirements	Required family and school collateral contacts, engagement, and support
Large caseloads, "check-in" visits	Small caseloads with sessions focused on behavior change
Minimal training	Training in family engagement techniques and strategies for working with youth involved in gangs
Minimal use of incentives/rewards	Frequent use of incentives/rewards to promote positive youth behavior and hold youth accountable

Incentives and graduated responses to violations of supervision conditions can effectively motivate positive behavior change.
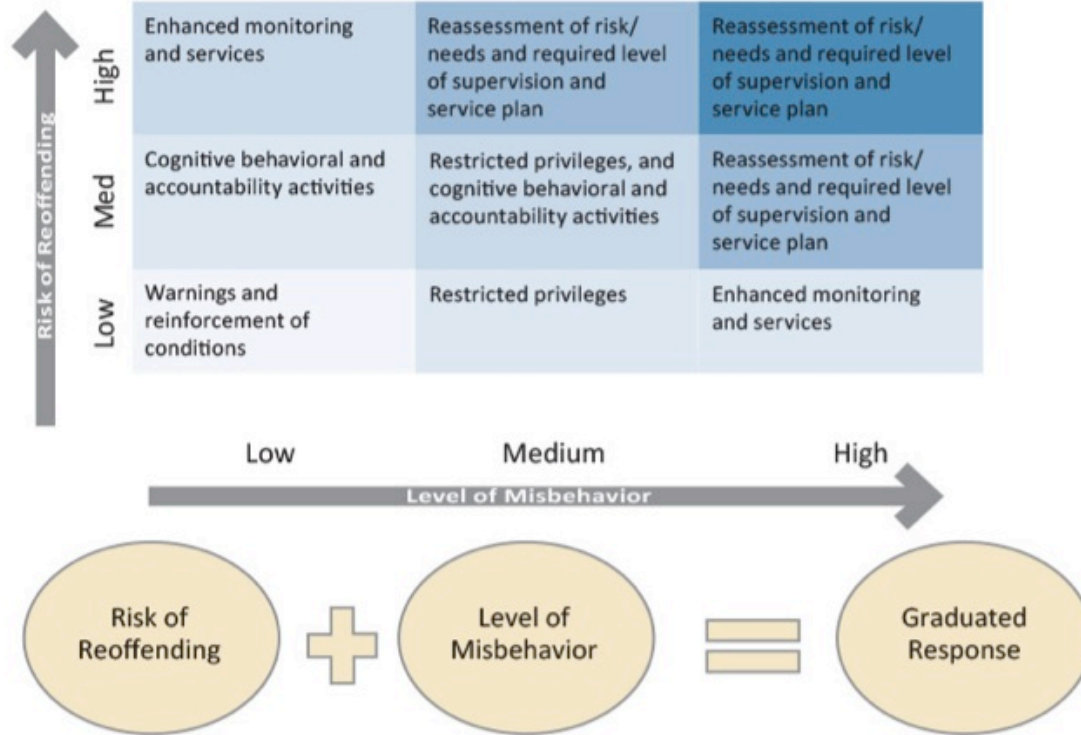
Sonoma County's juvenile justice system has many strengths and is in an active state of transformation and improvement.

- Committed, informed, collaborative leadership team, staff, and stakeholders

- Substantial decline in arrests, referrals, and use of out-of-home placement

- Increasing effort to divert lower-risk youth and focus system resources on higher-risk youth

- Existing efforts to address key challenge areas including how detention decisions are made and development of graduated sanctions matrix/incentives system

- Increasing investment in evidence-based services, cross-systems partnerships, and data-driven decision making
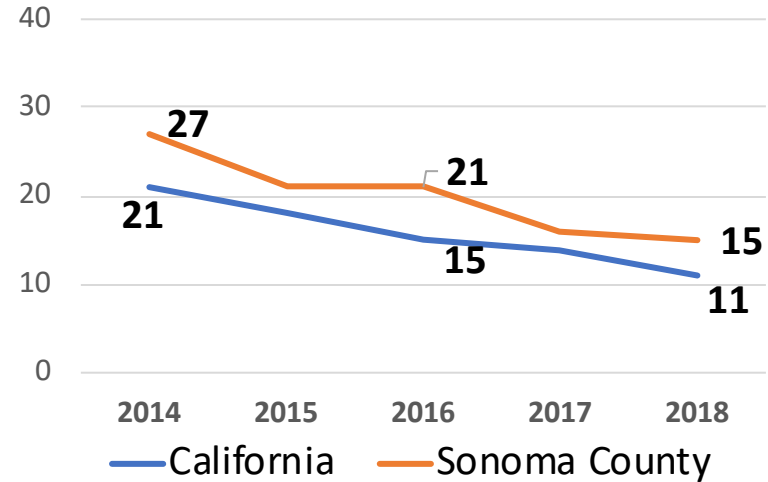
Juvenile arrests decreased 46 percent between 2014 and 2018 in Sonoma County and California, but arrest rates are slightly higher in Sonoma County.
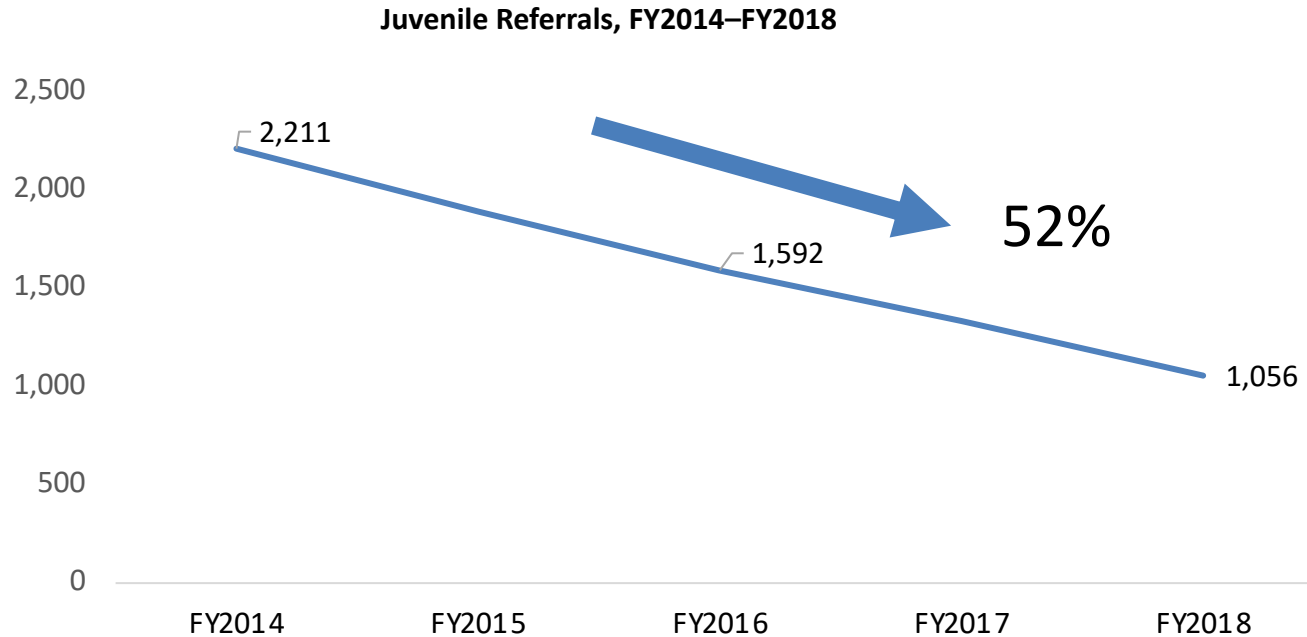
Juvenile Arrests, 2014–2018
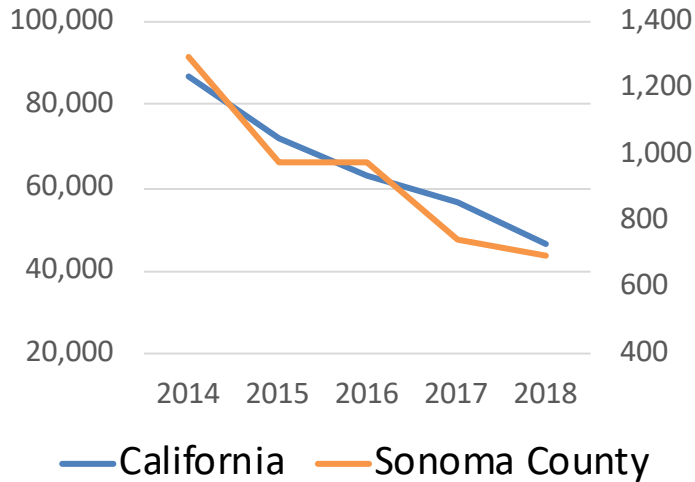
Juvenile Arrest Rates, 2014–2018

Referrals to Sonoma County Juvenile Probation decreased 52 percent between 2014 and 2018.

Juvenile Referrals, FY2014–FY2018

52%

2,211	FY2014
1,592	FY2016
1,056	FY2018

Violent offenses have increased as a proportion of referrals by 8 percent since 2014, but probation violations remain the primary driver of new referrals.

Referrals by Offense Type, FY2014–FY2018

	Violent	Property	Drug	Violation	Other
FY2014	13%	20%	12%	35%	20%
FY2016	14%	19%	11%	34%	23%
FY2018	21%	13%	5%	35%	26%
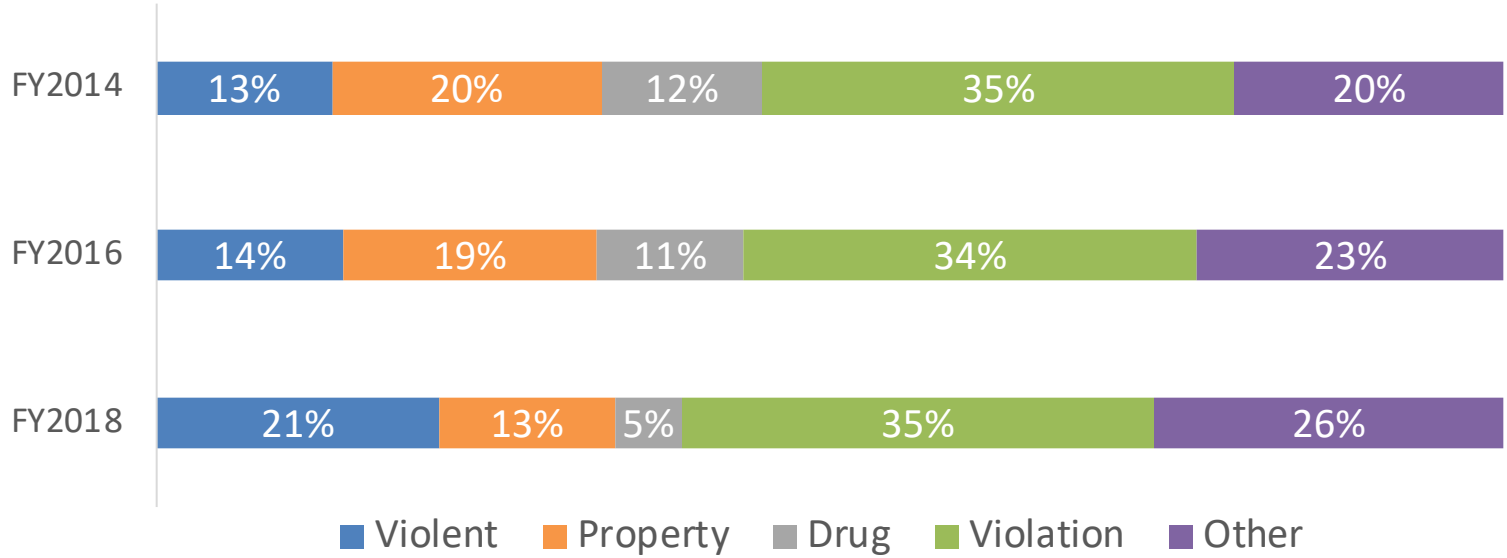
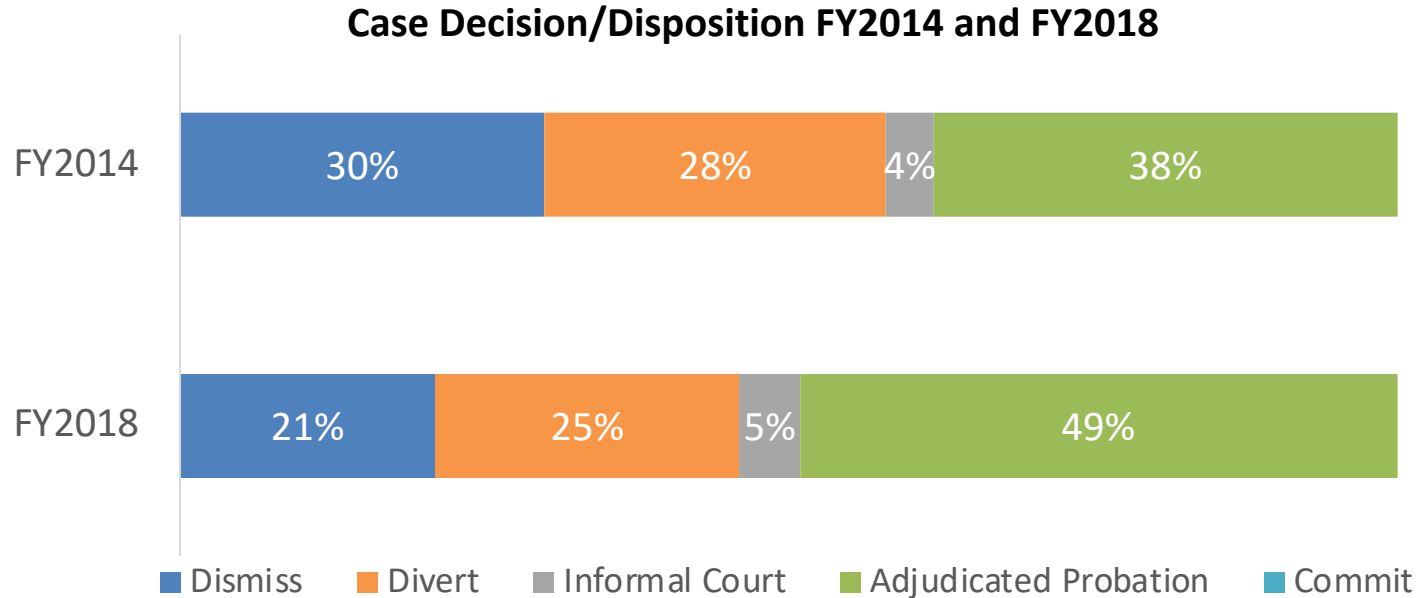# Diversion has declined slightly since 2014 while adjudications to probation have increased 11 percent.

Case Decision/Disposition FY2014 and FY2018

|	Dismiss	Divert	Informal Court	Adjudicated Probation	Commit
FY2014	30%	28%	4%	38%	
FY2018	21%	25%	5%	49%	

Youth of color are less likely to be diverted than their peers with a similar history and referral offense.

Percentage of Diverted Cases with No Prior History, Referred for a Misdemeanor, FY2014 and FY2018

FY2014
- White: 68%
- Hispanic: 65%
- Black: 47%

FY2018
- White: 64%
- Hispanic: 60%
- Black: 50%

Legend: ■ White ■ Hispanic ■ Black
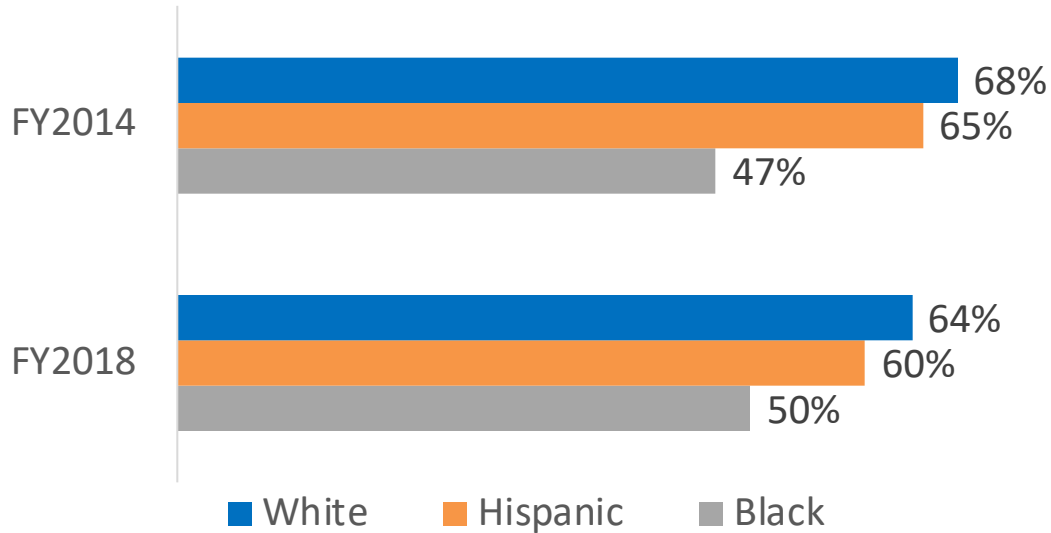
Less than a quarter of youth placed on diversion fail within a year of ending supervision.

Percentage of Diversion Cases with a Failure While on Diversion, FY2014 and FY2018
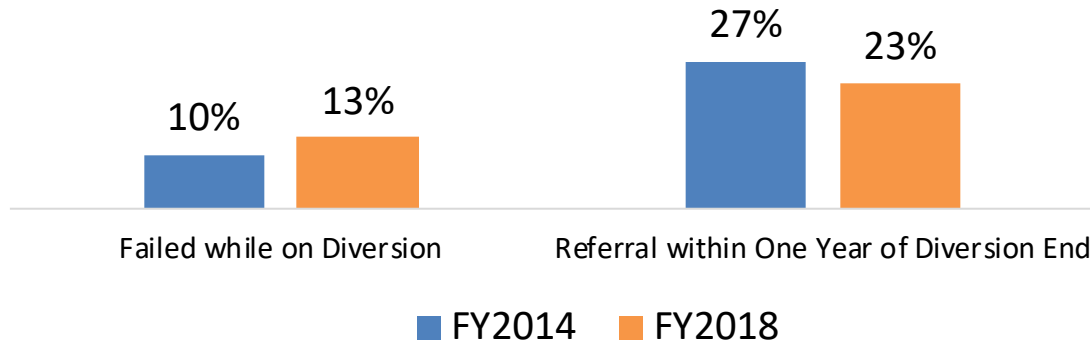
Percentage of Diversion Cases with a Subsequent Referral within One Year of Diversion End, FY2014 and FY2018

10%
13%
27%
23%

Failed while on Diversion
Referral within One Year of Diversion End

■ FY2014 ■ FY2018

Failed while on diversion means that a youth had a subsequent referral to the department while still on diversion or had their diversion case formalized.

Referral within one year of diversion end means the youth had a subsequent referral to the department while on supervision or within one year of completing diversion.

Key Takeaways: Arrest, Referral, Diversion

1 Juvenile arrest rates in Sonoma County are slightly higher than in California as a whole.

2 Youth of color are arrested at a greater rate and diverted at a lower rate than their white peers for similar offenses.

3 Probation violations consistently comprise more than a third of juvenile referrals.

Arrest, Referral, and Diversion Recommendations

- Partner with law enforcement to develop pre-arrest diversion opportunities

- Develop enhanced policies regarding the diversion of all youth that are low risk to reoffend and partner with other systems and providers to refer them to services.

- Engage in more conversations around system equity and identify opportunities to more intentionally divert youth of color from system involvement.

Probation violations remain the largest single driver of new ward dispositions, and felony offenses have increased as a proportion of ward dispositions.

Ward Dispositions by Type of Offense, FY2014–FY2018
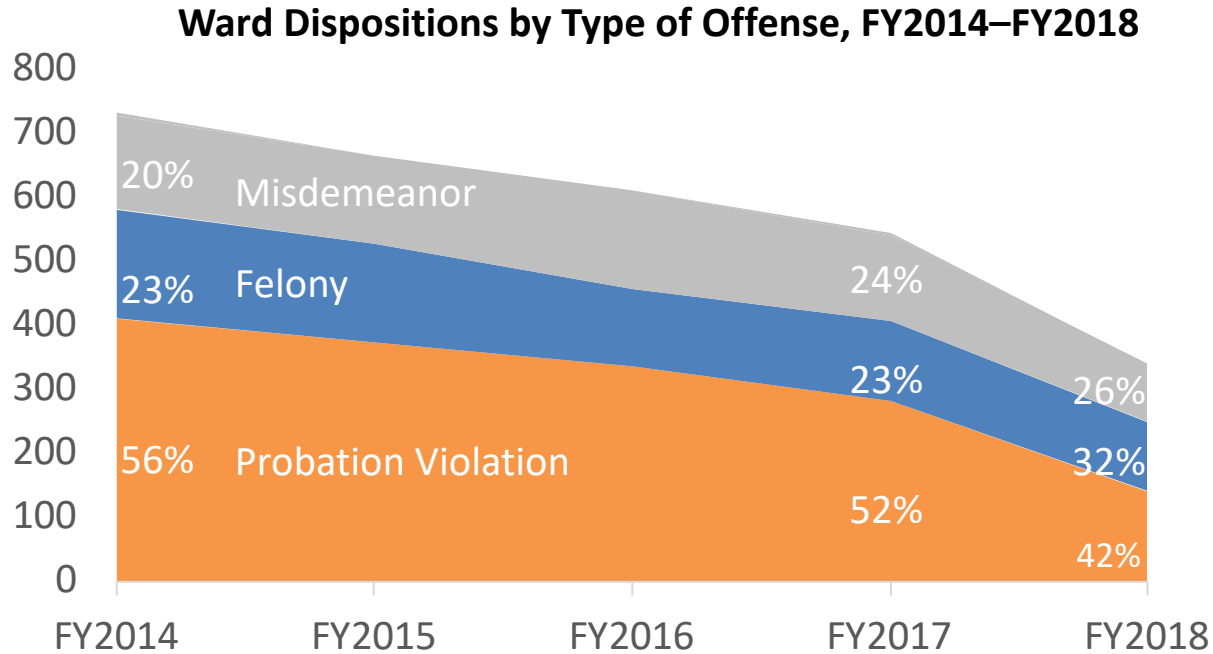
A decreasing proportion of low-risk youth and and an increasing proportion of high-risk youth are referred to services.

Referrals to Contracted Services for Youth on Community Supervision by Risk Level, FY2015 and FY2018
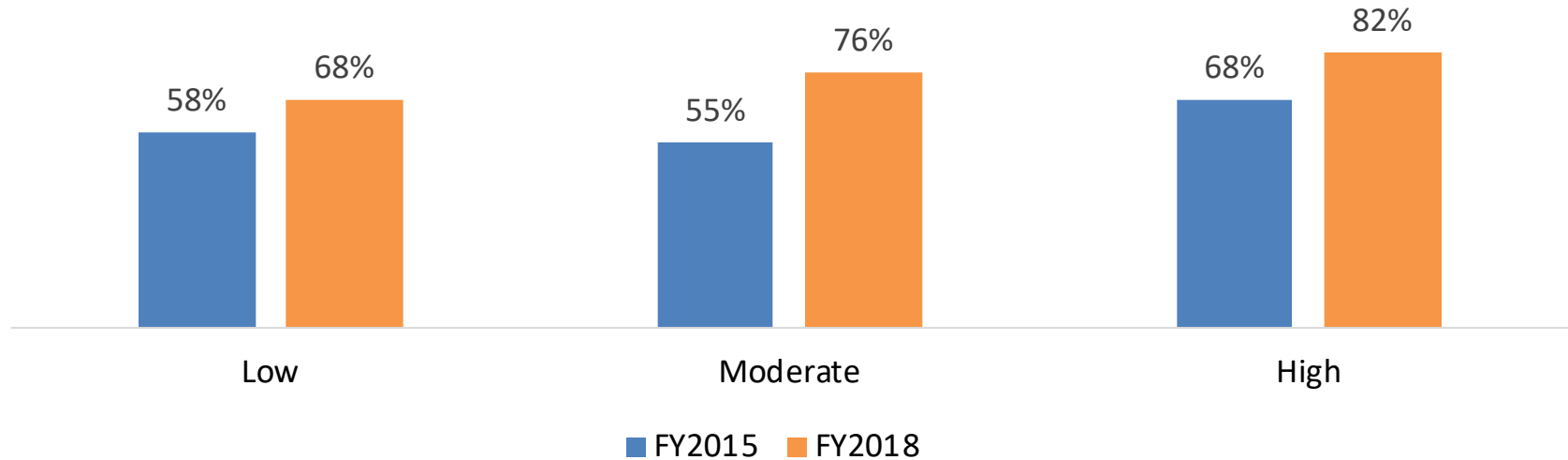
An increasing percentage of youth have an identified need on their PACT assessment, particularly needs related to mental health and trauma.

PACT Risk and Need Factors of Youth Starting Supervision, FY2015 and FY2018

Category	FY2015	FY2018
History of Abuse or Neglect	43%	43%
Risk of Suicide or Self-Harm	30%	35%
Trauma	39%	42%
Witnessed Violence	47%	54%
Anger/Irritability	24%	32%
Mental Health	36%	45%
Alcohol or Drug Use	50%	48%
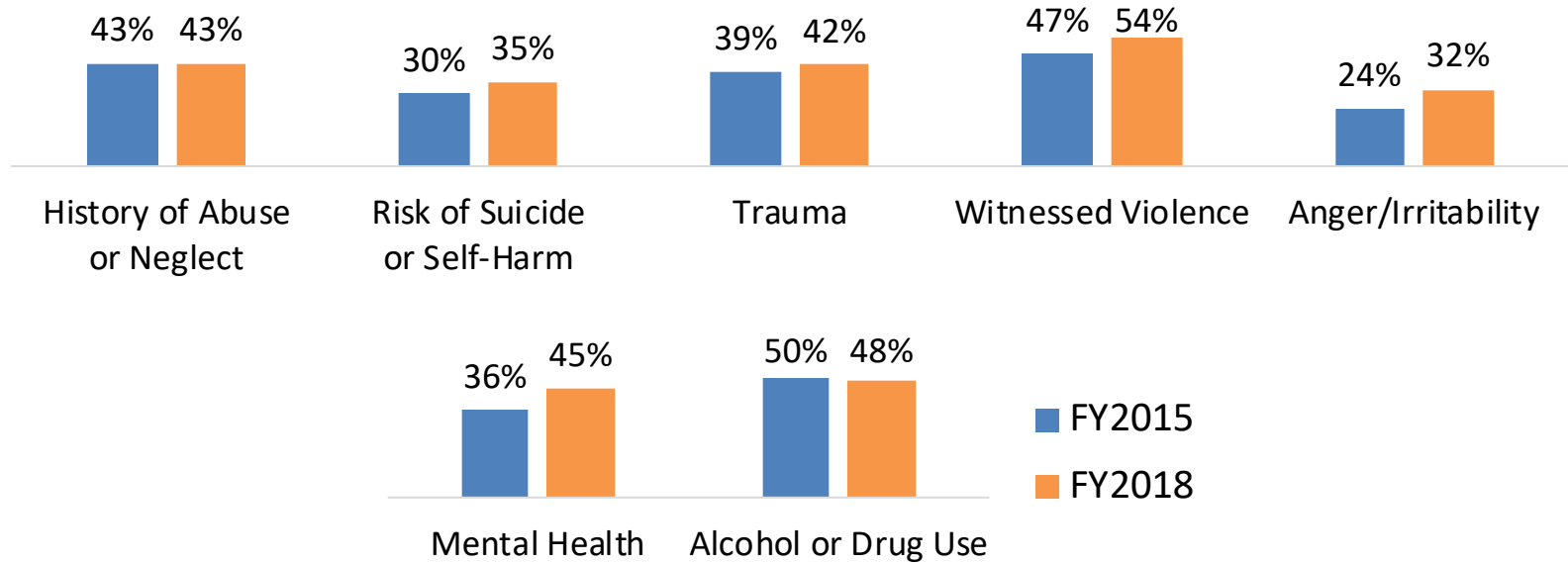
While a high proportion of youth struggle with criminogenic needs and mental health/trauma, most service referrals are for skill building and restorative justice.

Referrals to Contracted Services by Service Type, FY2018

Service Type	Referrals
General Skills	188
Restorative	171
Substance Use	118
Family	59
CBT	59
Wraparound	51
Mental Health	35
Youth Development	28
Evening Reporting	20
Other	12
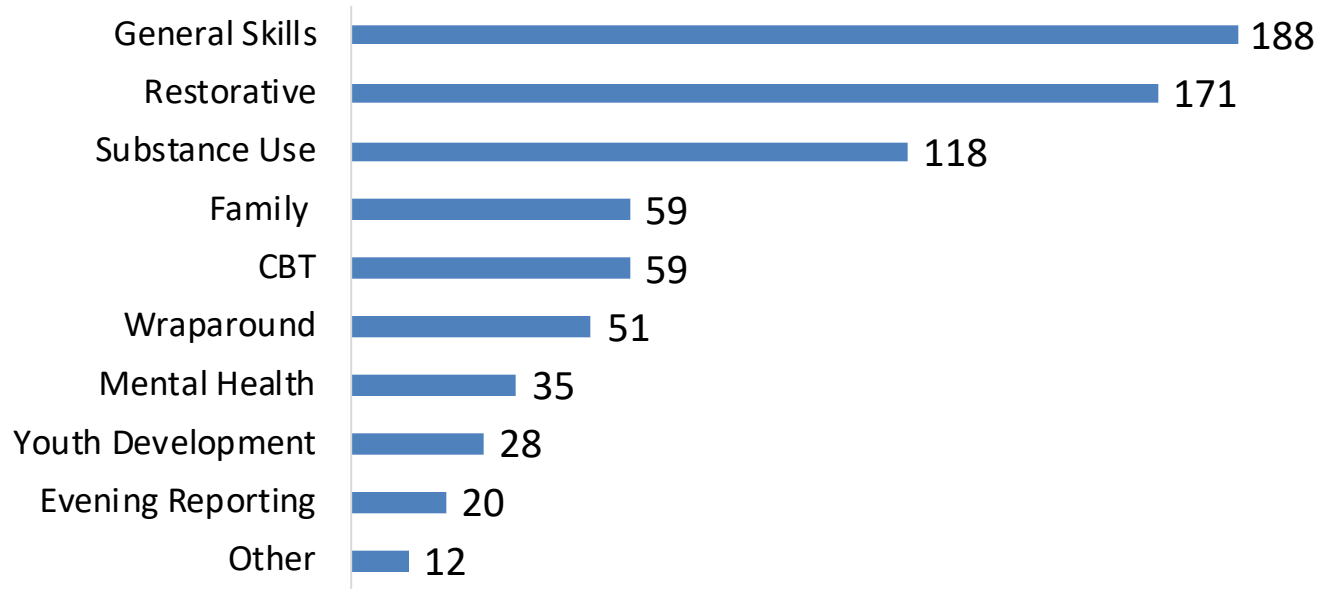
Of the more than half of case plans for youth on supervision with an identified substance use need, only 19 percent were referred to substance use treatment.

Case Plans with Identified Substance Use Need, FY2018

46%

54%

Assessment for Treatment Need (No Data Available)

→

19%

81%

- ■ No Substance Use Need
- ■ Substance Use Need
- ■ Not Referred to Treatment
- ■ Referred to Treatment
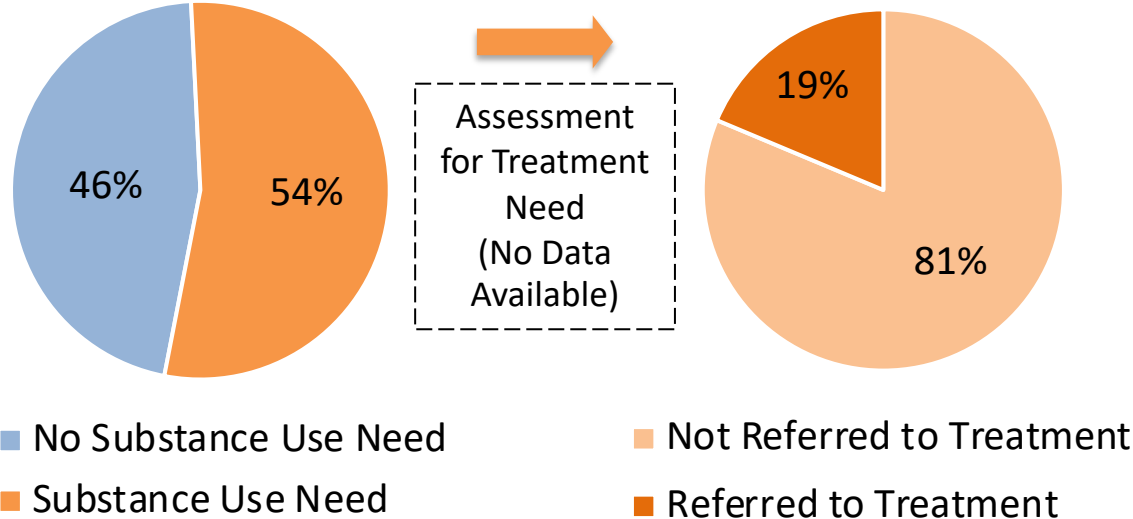
% Referrals to Substance Use Treatment Where Substance Use Was an Identified Need

41%

59%

- ■ No Substance Use Need
- ■ Substance Use Need
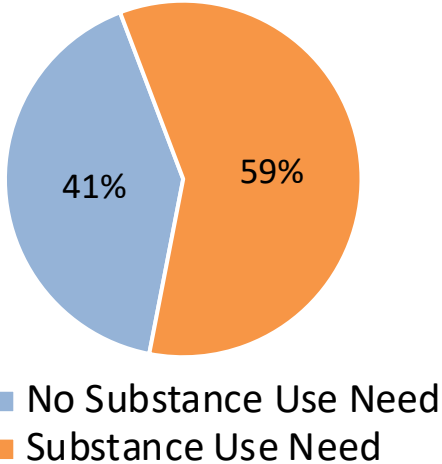
Mental health and family service referrals were the most likely to be refused by youth.

Juvenile Refusal Rates of Referrals to Contracted Services by Service Type, FY2018

Service Type	Refusal Rate
Mental Health	57%
Family	46%
Youth Development	11%
Evening Reporting	15%
Substance Use	11%
Restorative	5%
CBT	3%
Wraparound	2%
General Skills	0%
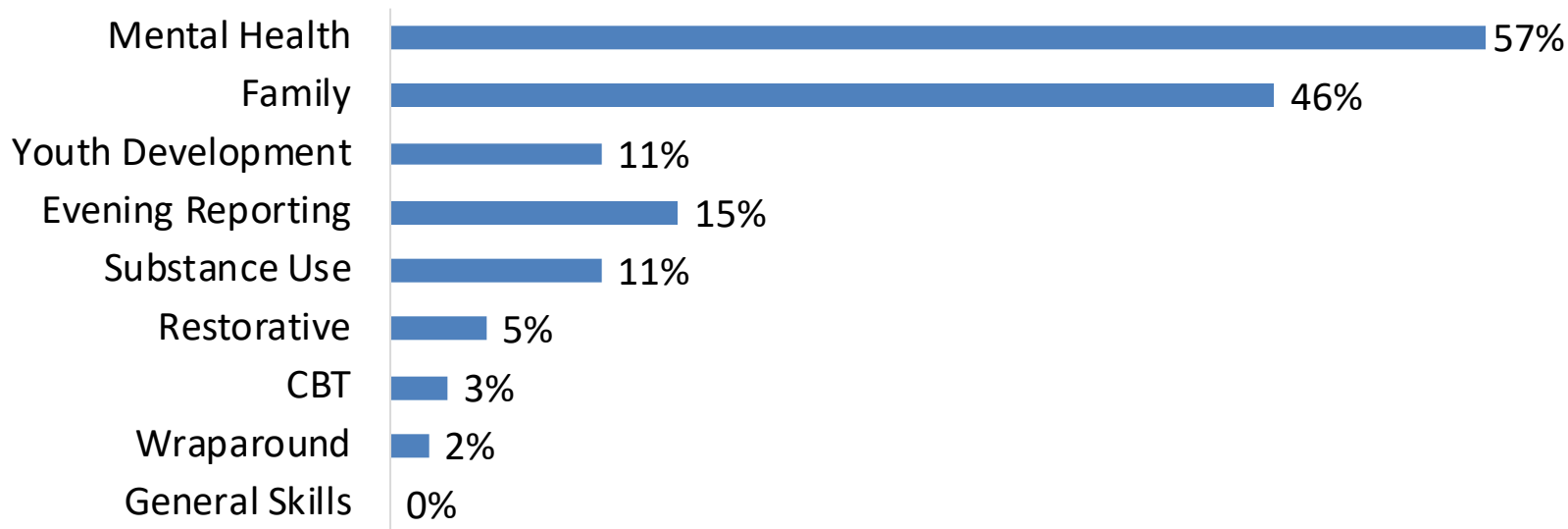
Successful completion rates vary significantly across contracted community-based service providers.

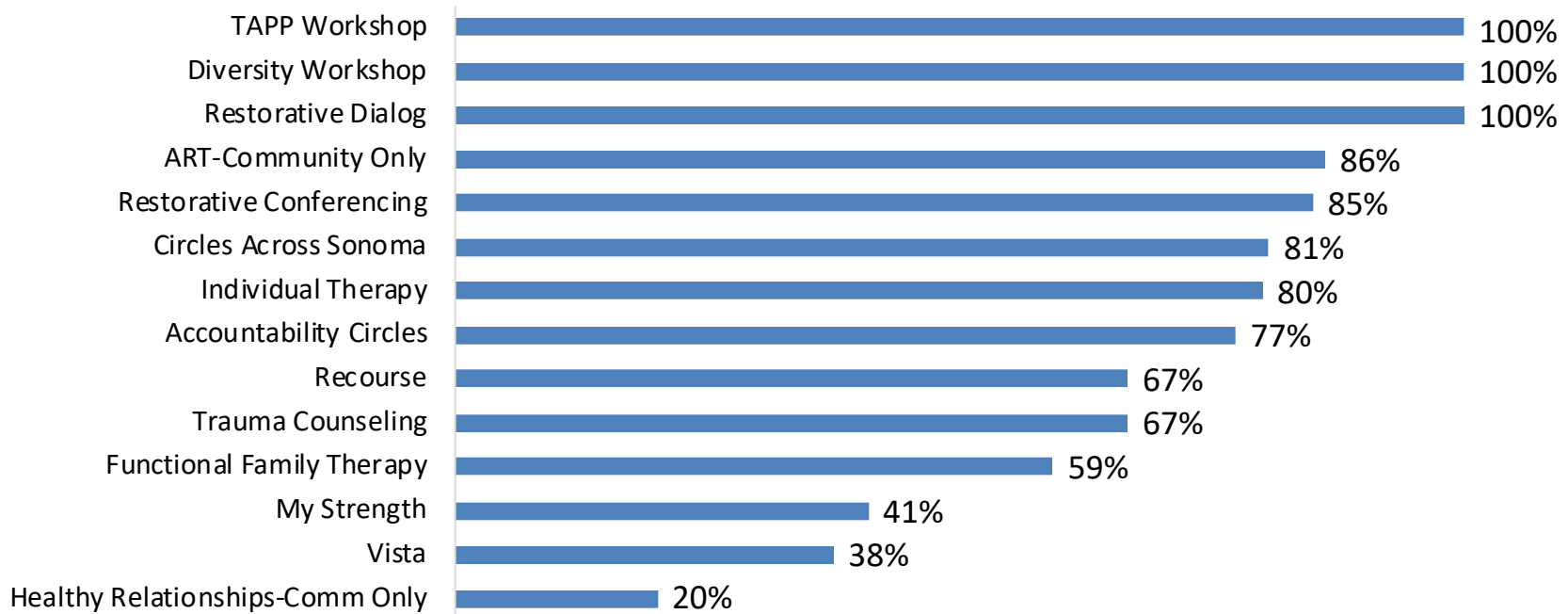**Successful Completion Status of Exits from Contracted Services by Service Type, FY2018**

Service Type	Rate
TAPP Workshop	100%
Diversity Workshop	100%
Restorative Dialog	100%
ART-Community Only	86%
Restorative Conferencing	85%
Circles Across Sonoma	81%
Individual Therapy	80%
Accountability Circles	77%
Recourse	67%
Trauma Counseling	67%
Functional Family Therapy	59%
My Strength	41%
Vista	38%
Healthy Relationships-Comm Only	20%

Re-referral rates are higher for programs that serve more moderate- and high-risk youth.
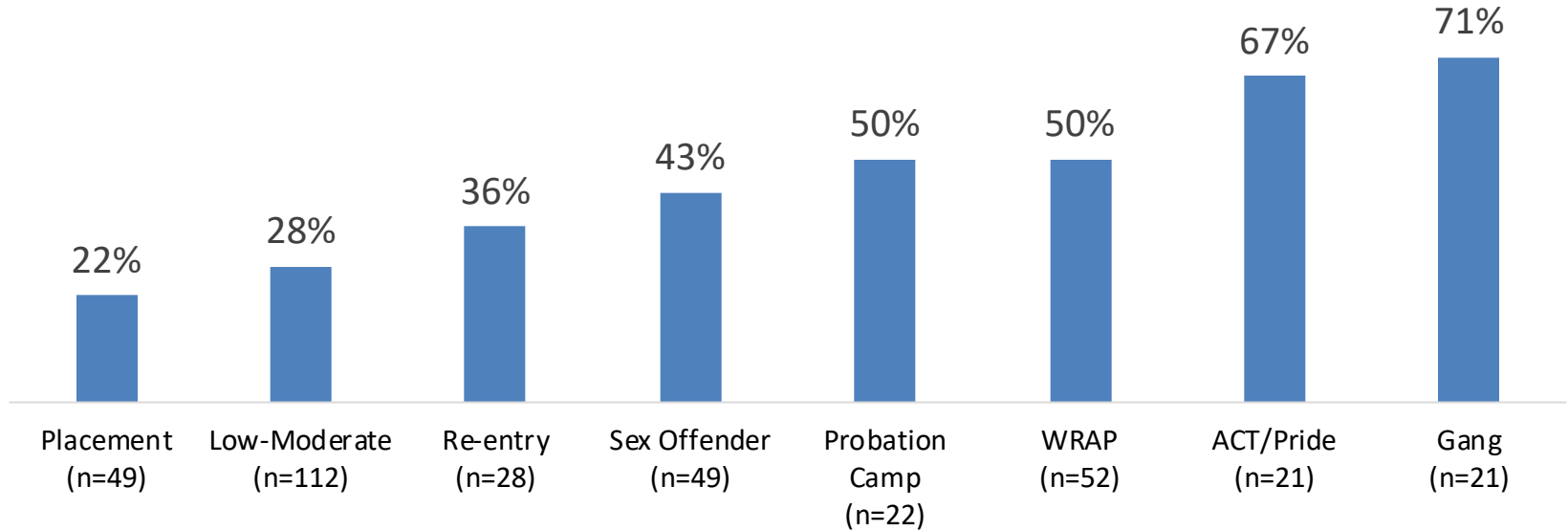

Re-referral Within One Year of Service Exit, FY2017
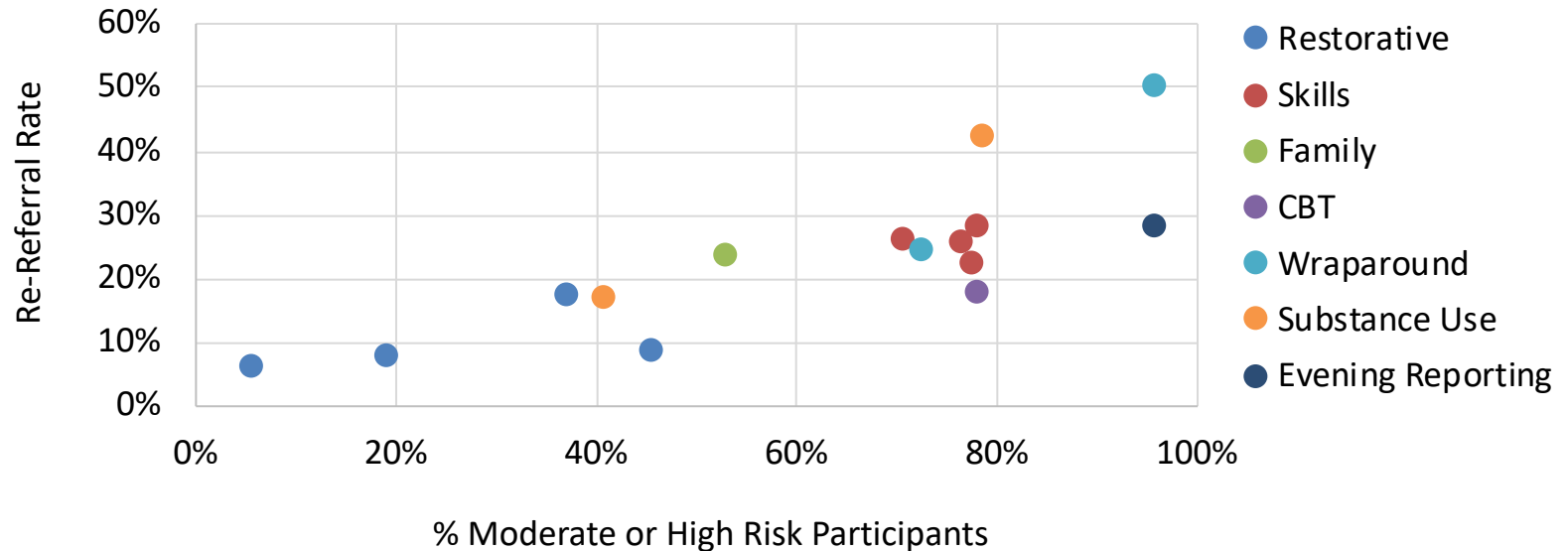
The percentage of youth with a probation violation while on supervision is high across all caseload types.

Violation of Probation During Supervision by Caseload Type, 2018

Bar chart showing percentage of youth with probation violation by caseload type:
- Placement (n=49): 22%
- Low-Moderate (n=112): 28%
- Re-entry (n=28): 36%
- Sex Offender (n=49): 43%
- Probation Camp (n=22): 50%
- WRAP (n=52): 50%
- ACT/Pride (n=21): 67%
- Gang (n=21): 71%

One-quarter of youth on supervision recidivate within one year from the start of their supervision date.

Recidivism Rate from Supervision Start Date, FY2014–FY2017

Term FY	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3		3-Year Rate
FY2014	**29%**	**6%**	**2%**		**37%**
FY2015	**20%**	**4%**	**3%**		**27%**
FY2016	**26%**	**4%**			
FY2017	**25%**				

Recidivism is defined as referral to the department for a misdemeanor or felony offense within one, two, or three years of the start of supervision.

Key Takeaways: Supervision and Services

1 The system is increasingly supervising a more challenging population of youth with higher risk and needs. At the same time, most service referrals are for skills, youth development, and restorative programs rather than treatment.

2 Youth are increasingly matched to services based on their risk level, but more work is needed to match services to need and to partner with providers to ensure youth successfully engage with and complete services.
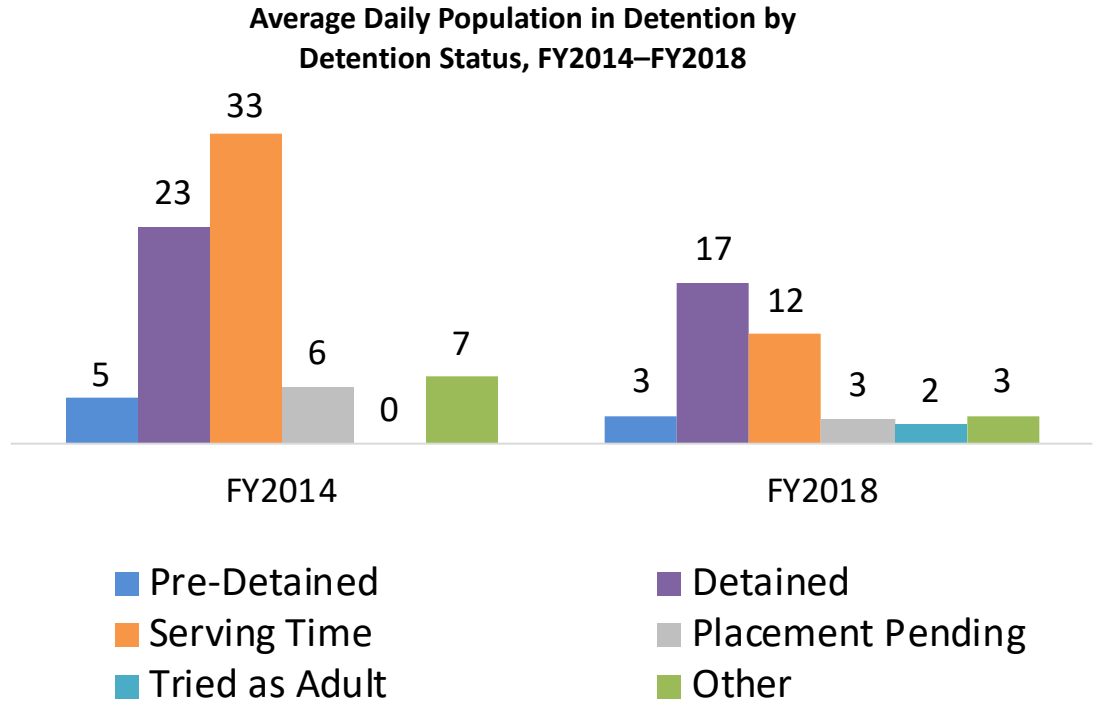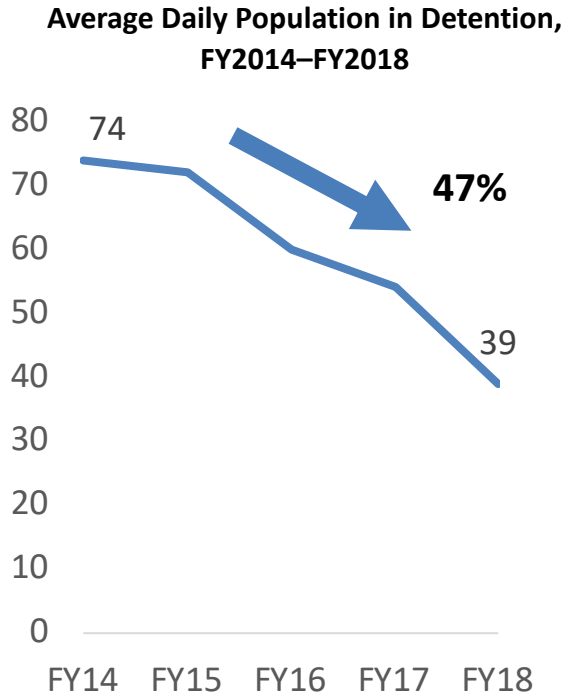
3 Further efforts are needed to reduce system reliance on probation violations and strengthen the use of incentives and graduated responses.

Community Supervision and Services Recommendations

- Strengthen the use of graduated responses and incentives to decrease system reliance on technical violations, particularly as cause for extended probation and out-of-home placement.

- Align available services with youths' needs and strengthen case planning processes, family engagement, and partnerships with providers to improve service matching, engagement, and completion rates.

- Develop more robust quality assurance and data collection processes to improve service outcomes and hold providers accountable.

Juvenile Justice Continuum: Detention and Camp

The average daily population of youth in detention decreased 47 percent from 2014 to 2018.

Average Daily Population in Detention, FY2014–FY2018

FY	Value
FY14	74
FY18	39

47%

Average Daily Population in Detention by Detention Status, FY2014–FY2018

FY2014
- Pre-Detained: 5
- Detained: 23
- Serving Time: 33
- Placement Pending: 6
- Tried as Adult: 0
- Other: 7

FY2018
- Pre-Detained: 3
- Detained: 17
- Serving Time: 12
- Placement Pending: 3
- Tried as Adult: 2
- Other: 3

Legend:
- Pre-Detained
- Detained
- Serving Time
- Placement Pending
- Tried as Adult
- Other

Results from the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) are not used to inform detention decisions.

For every 10 youths placed into detention in FY2018:

Six had a mandatory hold based on department policy

Mandatory Hold
303 (61%)

Three received an override of the DRAI recommendation

No Mandatory Hold, Override
140 (28%)
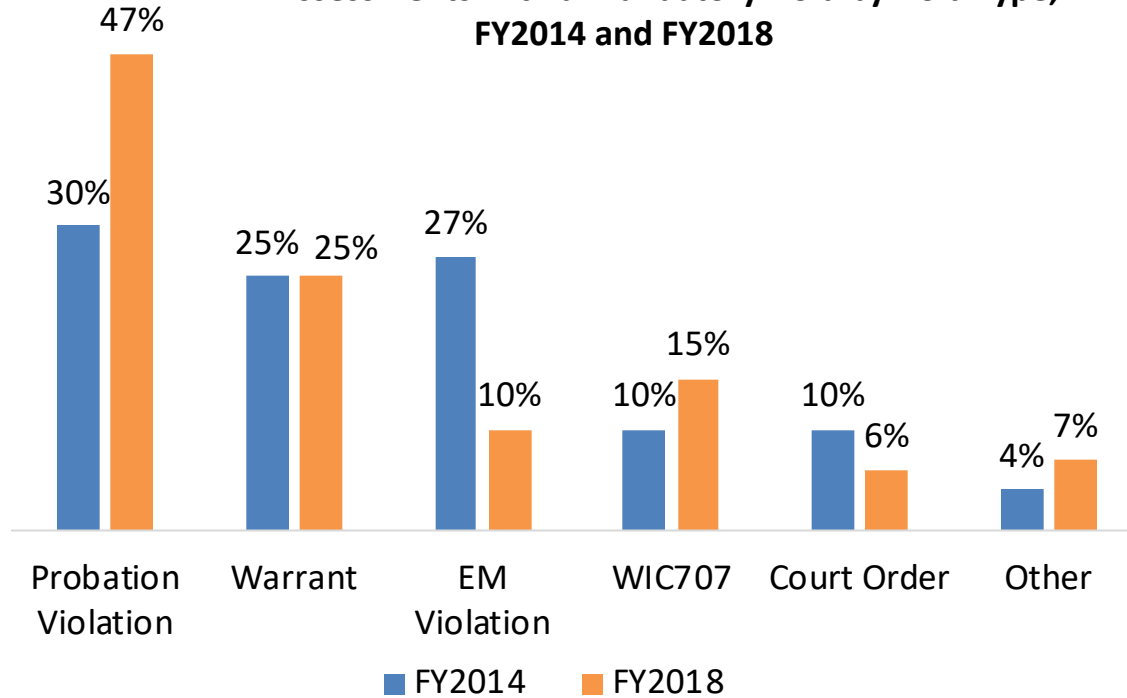
One was held based on the DRAI recommendation

No Mandatory Hold, No Override
55 (11%)

Probation violations and warrants accounted for over 50 percent of mandatory holds driving detentions in 2018.

DRAI Assessments with a Mandatory Hold by Hold Type, FY2014 and FY2018

- The vast majority of youth with a hold have one mandatory hold reason (96% in FY2014 and 91% in FY2018).

- The Probation Department fully implemented a new graduated response matrix in August, which may impact these numbers going forward.

Victim-related issues and safety concerns are the top reasons for DRAI override decisions.

DRAI Assessments with an Override* by Override Reason, FY2014 and FY2018

Override Reason	FY2014	FY2018
Victim-Related	29%	35%
Likely to Flee	25%	11%
Safety of Minor	22%	21%
Probation Status	20%	16%
Threat to Public Safety	14%	18%
Home Supervision Not Appropriate	11%	17%
Parent Refuses to Take Custody	18%	11%
Parent Cannot be Located	9%	3%
Other	28%	19%

* Youth with an override may have multiple override reasons.

Of youth without a mandatory hold in FY2018, 30% of female youths received an override for "safety" compared to 11% of male youths.

Approximately 22-34 youth have been placed in Probation Camp annually over the last five years.

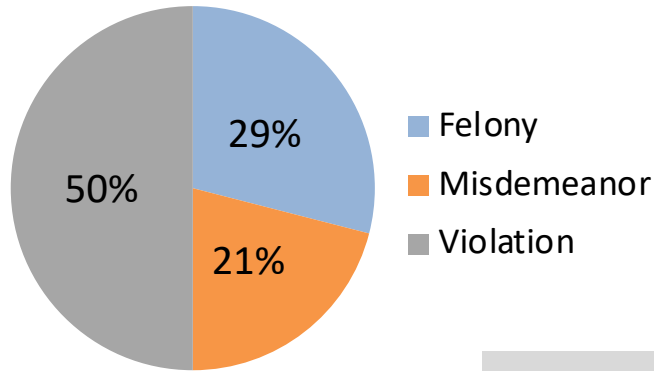**Number of Youth Starting Camp Per Year, FY2014–FY2018**

FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
34	29	22	33	24
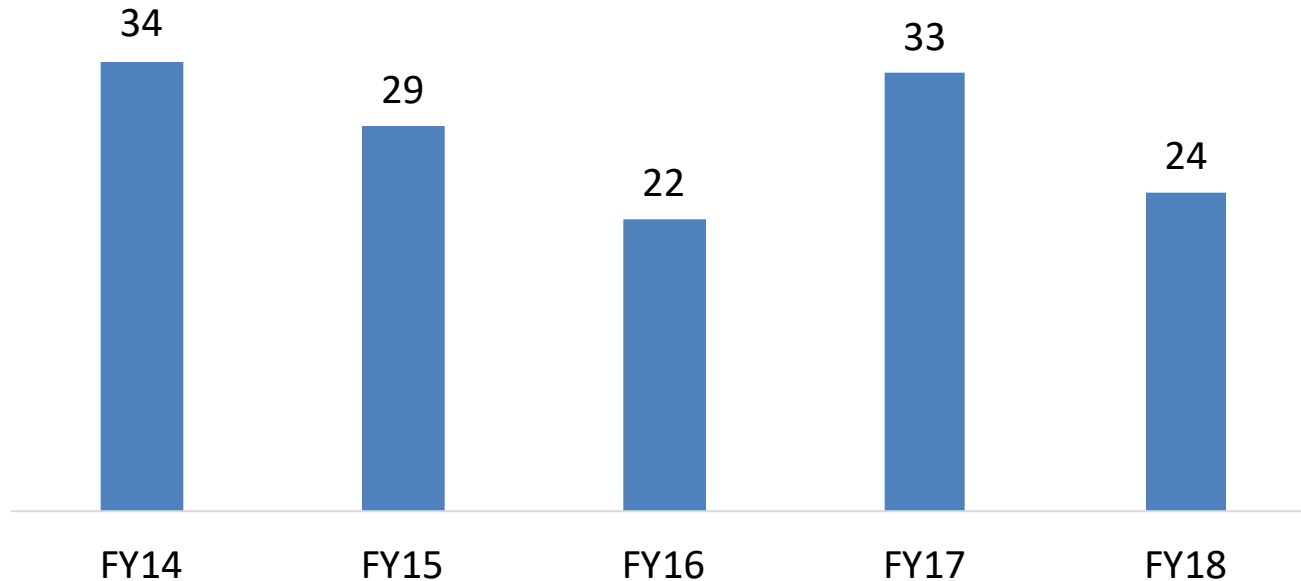
While most youth admitted to camp are high risk and have committed a violent offense, half of admissions are due to a violation.
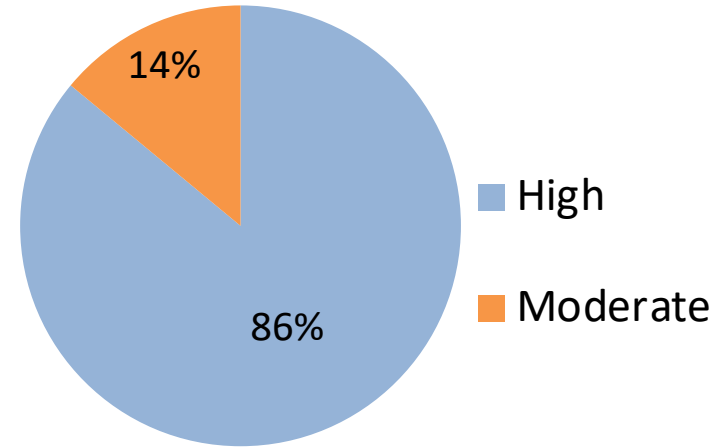
Probation Camp Admissions, FY2018

By Most Recent Disposition

- Felony: 29%
- Misdemeanor: 21%
- Violation: 50%
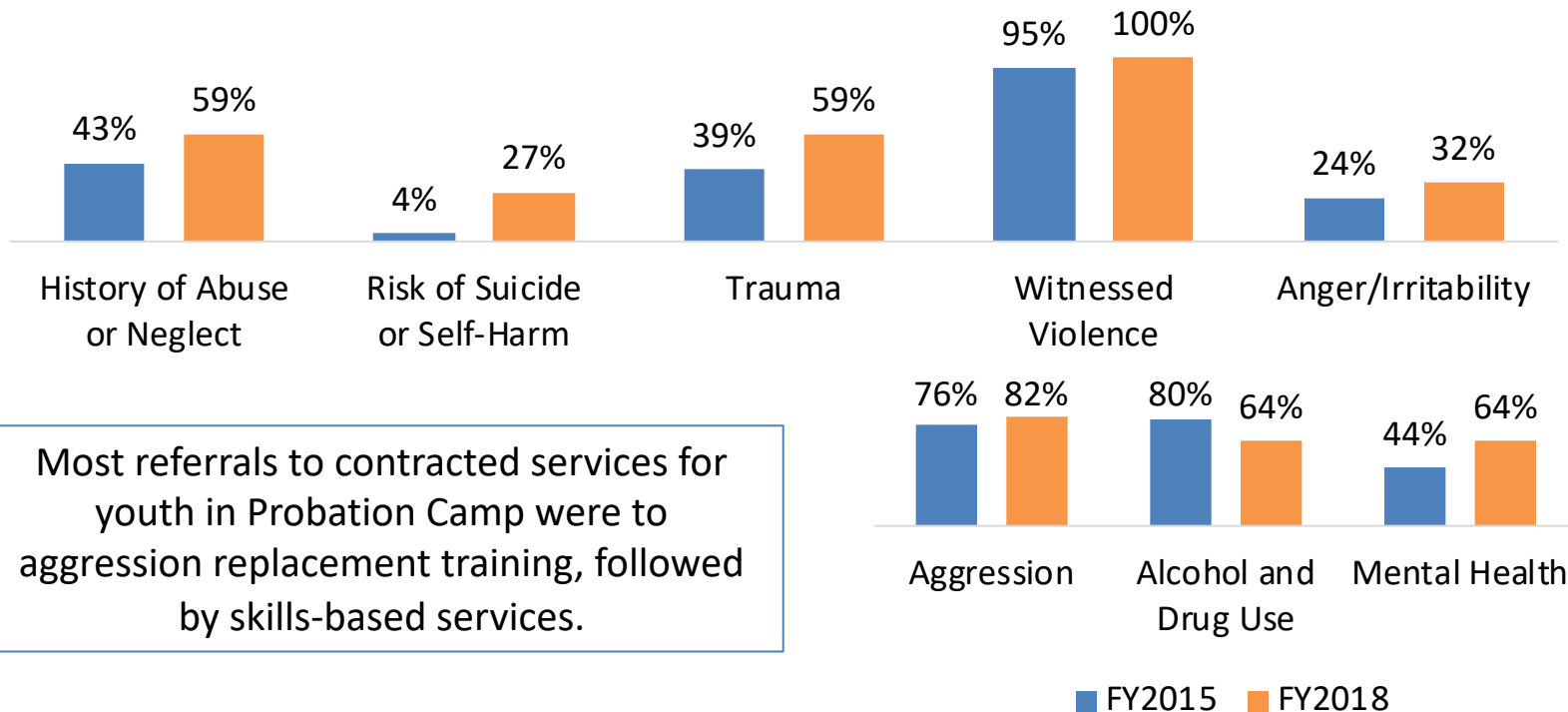
Offense Level	% Violent
Felony	86%
Misdemeanor	80%

Youth averaged 4 prior dispositions before camp admission

By Risk Level

- High: 86%
- Moderate: 14%

In 2018, all youth at camp had witnessed violence while nearly two-thirds had mental health needs, and more than 80 percent had aggression-related needs.

PACT Risk and Need Factors of Youth Starting Camp, FY2015 and FY2018

Most referrals to contracted services for youth in Probation Camp were to aggression replacement training, followed by skills-based services.

■ FY2015 ■ FY2018

44

Key Takeaways: Detention, Disposition, Supervision

1 Most youth assessed by the DRAI have mandatory holds, typically for a probation violation or a warrant.

2 The majority of detained youth who did not have a mandatory hold are detained due to an override of the DRAI.

3 Camp admissions are low; the youth being placed in camp have increasingly complex needs; and adjustments to the current camp service model may be needed to meet these needs.

Detention and Camp Recommendations

- Use the DRAI more consistently as the primary basis for detention decisions and develop more alternatives to detention.

- Continue to strengthen family engagement and treatment services for youth in detention.

- Consider how to increasingly align the camp service model with the criminogenic and mental health needs of its population.

Next Steps

Establish working groups

Develop action plans with concrete deliverables and timelines

Establish new policies and practices, and align resources/staffing

Improve public safety and youth outcomes