



FY2025 MASSACHUSETTS JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA BRIEFS

All data is for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025).

The juvenile justice system was used differently for girls and LGBTQ+ youth compared to boys and straight/cisgender peers in the system.

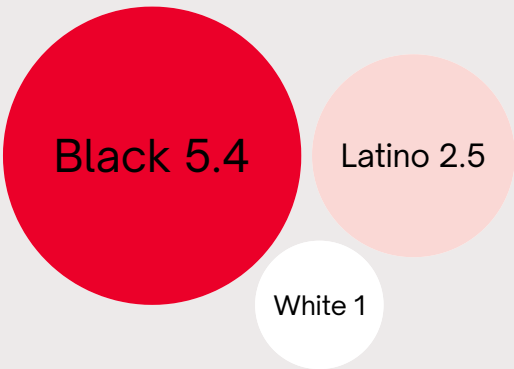


Black girls had the highest relative rate of arrests

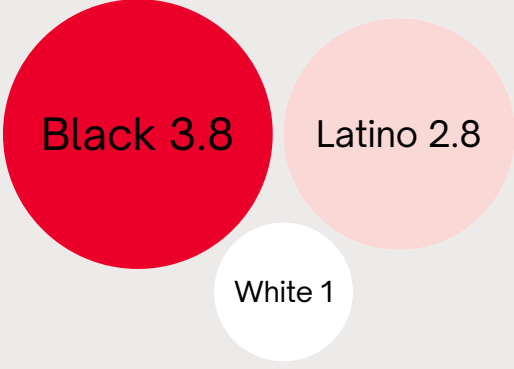


Although boys experienced a higher overall rate of arrests, racial and ethnic disparities in arrests were more pronounced for girls.

Girls: Comparative rate of arrests



Boys: Comparative rate of arrests



Girls and LGBTQ+ youth were detained for different reasons and had distinct experiences and needs from boys and straight/cisgender youth



Reason Held

Girls and LGBTQ+ youth were held most often for cash bail

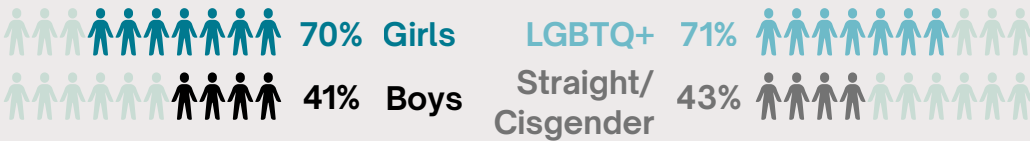
Percent of Youth Held on Cash Bail at Pretrial Detention



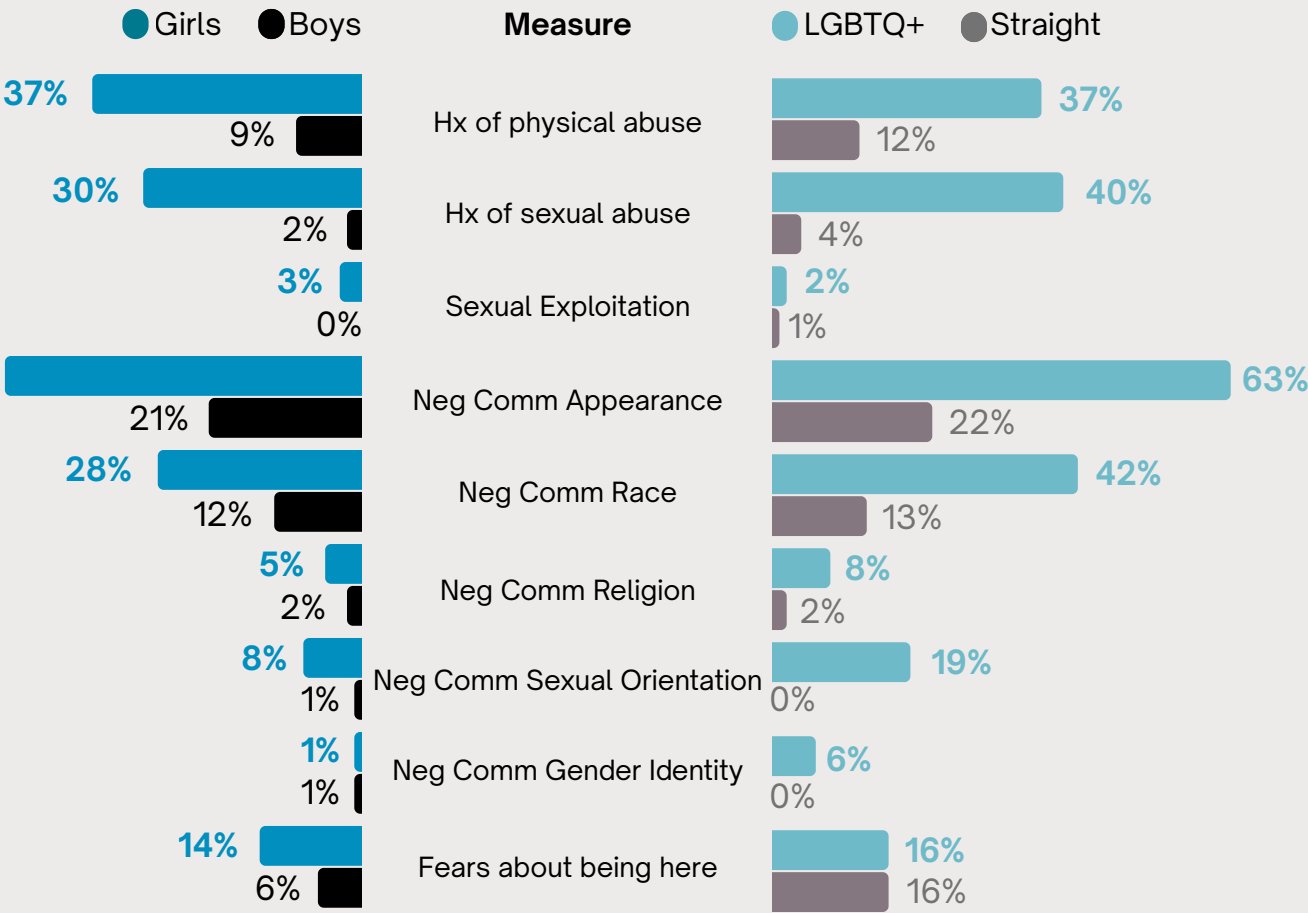
DCF Involvement

Girls and LGBTQ+ youth more frequently had DCF involvement at their detention admission

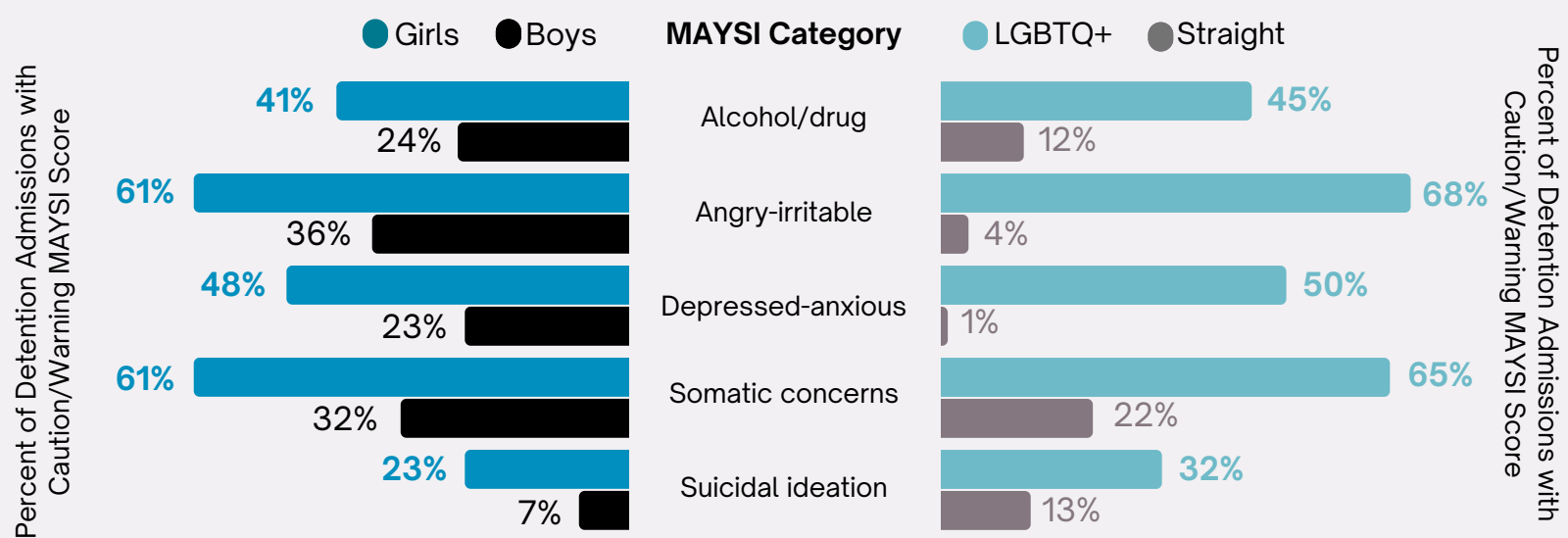
DCF Involvement at Detention Admission



Trauma: A high proportion of girls and LGBTQ+ youth in detention reported trauma across a variety of measures



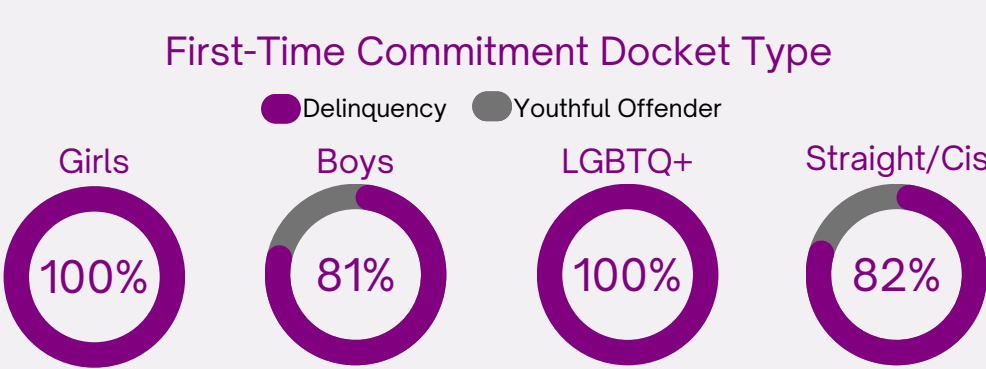
Behavioral Health: A high proportion of girls and LGBTQ+ youth in detention reported behavioral health needs across a variety of measures



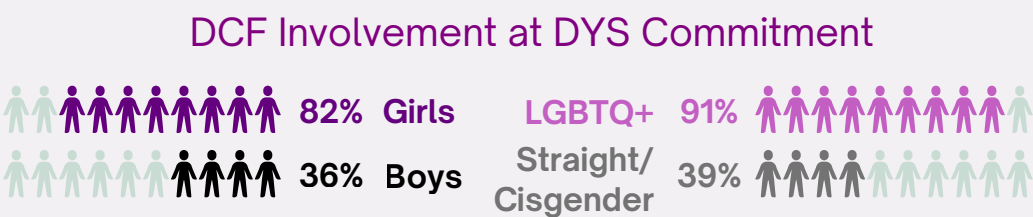
Girls and LGBTQ+ youth were committed for different reasons and had distinct experiences from boys and straight/cisgender youth



Docket Type
Girls and LGBTQ+ youth were committed for delinquency cases, not Youthful Offender cases

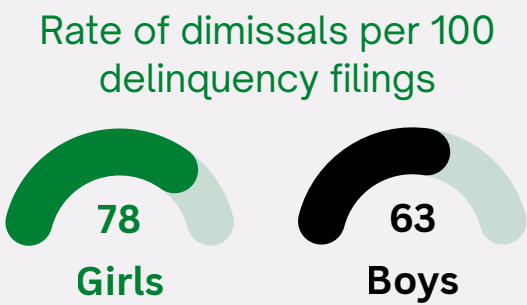


DCF Involvement
Girls and LGBTQ+ youth more frequently had DCF involvement at DYS commitment



Girls' cases were dismissed more frequently than boys' cases

Case Dismissals



A large number of girls were formally processed through the court system when diversion at an earlier stage might have better served a youth

Data Notes:

Gender Definition: The OCA recognizes that an individual's gender – which the Office defines as an individuals' inherent sense of self as male, female, both, or neither – may differ from the sex they were assigned at birth. In this brief, however, we rely on the data reported by various agencies, which may be collected and reported by the youth's gender, their sex assigned at birth, or may be unclear.

For more information on the JJPAD Board's data reporting standards, please see: [Recommended Data Reporting Standards: Recommendations for Reporting Data on Race, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#), and for information on how each entity reports gender and/or sex, see the [JJPAD Data Subcommittee February 2020 Meeting Presentation](#).

LGBTQ+ Data: Data on the sexual orientation and transgender status of youth in the juvenile justice system is limited and is currently only publicly reported by the Department of Youth Services (DYS).

Note: For the purposes of this brief, sexual orientation and gender identity data is aggregated into one category due to low individual case counts and to protect youth confidentiality. Data on youth whose gender is unknown or was not reported to the data collecting agency has been omitted from this brief due to its small number and for improved readability.

Data Sources:

- Massachusetts population data retrieved from [EZAPOPOP](#)
- Summons, arrest, applications for complaint, delinquency filings, arraignments, 58A hearings, and dispositions retrieved between 10/2025 and 1/2026 from the [Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page](#)
- Overnight arrest admissions, pretrial detention, and first-time commitment data provided to the OCA by the Department of Youth Services
- Pretrial supervision/monitoring cases, and post adjudication probation case starts provided to the OCA by the Massachusetts Probation Service

Data Appendix

This brief highlights specific demographic cohorts. Totals may not align with statewide figures because not all racial and ethnic categories were included, and youth with unknown or unreported gender were excluded due to small sample sizes.

Arrests by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and LGBTQ+ Status*													
Measure	Girls						Boys						
Race/ Ethnicity	Population (n=234,764)**		Arrest (n=1,089)		Summons (n=1,377)		Population (n=248,068)**		Arrest (n=3,906)		Summons (n=2,816)		
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
White	146,318	62%	348	32%	557	40%	154,489	62%	1,384	35%	1,151	41%	
Black/African American	23,823	10%	307	27%	253	18%	25,325	10%	871	22%	531	19%	
Hispanic/Latino	44,955	19%	268	25%	316	23%	47,604	19%	1,188	30%	675	24%	

*Data in this table was used to calculate RRI. For more on RRI calculations, see the [JJPAD Board’s 2025 Annual Report](#).
**The statewide youth population accounts for all youth ages 12-17 in CY23. Some racial and ethnic categories are not shown, and counts and percentages may not sum to 100%.

Pretrial Data by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and LGBTQ+ Status								
Outcome/Measure	Girls (n=145)		Boys (n=736)		LGBTQ+ (n=62)		Straight/Cis (n=819)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Pretrial Detention, Held Reason*								
Cash Bail	60	41%	143	19%	20	32%	183	22%
Probation violation hearing	19	13%	101	14%	12	19%	108	13%
Bail/PR revoked	53	37%	279	38%	24	39%	308	38%
58A Hearing	5	3%	125	17%	2	3%	128	16%
Pretrial Detention, DCF Status								
DCF Involvement	101	70%	299	41%	44	71%	356	43%
No DCF Involvement	44	30%	437	59%	18	29%	463	57%
PREA “Yes” Response								
Hx of physical abuse	54	37%	68	9%	23	37%	99	12%
Hx of sexual abuse	44	30%	12	2%	25	40%	31	4%
Sexual exploitation	4	3%	2	<1%	1	2%	5	1%
Neg comm appearance	71	49%	156	21%	39	63%	184	22%
Neg comm race	40	28%	90	12%	26	42%	104	13%
Neg comm religion	7	5%	14	2%	5	8%	16	2%
Neg comm sexual orientation	11	8%	4	1%	12	19%	3	<1%
Neg comm gender identity	2	1%	4	1%	4	6%	2	<1%
Fears about being here	21	14%	41	6%	10	16%	52	6%
Caution/Warning MAYSI Screening								
Alcohol/drug	59	41%	180	24%	28	45%	211	26%
Angry-irritable	89	61%	263	36%	42	68%	310	38%
Depressed-anxious	69	48%	166	23%	31	50%	204	25%
Somatic concerns	89	61%	235	32%	40	65%	284	35%
Suicidal ideation	34	23%	48	7%	20	32%	62	8%

Commitment Data by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and LGBTQ+ Status*								
Outcome/Measure	Girls (n=22)		Boys (n=155)		LGBTQ+ (n=11)		Straight/Cis (n=166)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
First-Time Commitment Docket Type								
Delinquency	22	100%	125	81%	11	100%	136	82%
Youthful Offender	0	0%	30	19%	0	0%	30	18%
DYS Commitment, DCF Status								
DCF Involvement	18	82%	56	36%	10	91%	64	39%
No DCF Involvement	4	18%	99	64%	1	9%	102	61%

Dismissal Data by Gender*			
Measure	Dismissals		Dismissals per 100 Delinquency Filings
Gender	Count	Percent	Count
Girls	1,211	29%	78
Boys	2,987	71%	63
Total	4,198	100%	65

*This data does not include the cases in which youth successfully complete their terms of probation as a result of a case being “continued without a finding” (CWOFF). Dismissals are reported separately from dispositions to align with the Juvenile Court’s public reporting.