



MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Child Advocate

Improving Massachusetts' Child Requiring Assistance System

A 2025 UPDATE AND PATH FORWARD FOR CHANGE

JULY 2025

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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[HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/LISTS/OCA-SPECIAL-PROJECTS](https://www.mass.gov/lists/OCA-SPECIAL-PROJECTS)

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About the Office of the Child Advocate

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) is an independent executive branch agency with oversight and ombudsperson responsibilities, established by the Massachusetts Legislature in 2008. The OCA's mission is to ensure that children receive appropriate, timely, and quality state services, with a particular focus on ensuring that the Commonwealth's most vulnerable and at-risk children have the opportunity to thrive. Through collaboration with public and private stakeholders, the OCA identifies gaps in state services and recommends improvements in policy, practice, regulation, and/or law. The OCA also serves as a resource for families who are receiving, or are eligible to receive, services from the Commonwealth.

Table of Acronyms

Table 1: Table of Acronyms	
Acronym	Definition
CAFL	Child and Family Law Division
CHINS	Children in Need of Services
CPCS	Committee for Public Counsel Services
CRA	Child Requiring Assistance
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DESE	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
DMH	Department of Mental Health
FRC	Family Resource Center
JJPAD	Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board
OCA	Office of the Child Advocate

Executive Summary

In 2022, the Juvenile Justice Policy and Data (JJPAD) Board, which is chaired by the OCA, released a comprehensive report on Massachusetts' Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) system, identifying serious structural flaws and recommending reforms to better support youth and families outside of the courtroom.¹

Since the publishing of the 2022 report, the situation has worsened. CRA filings have continued to rise, especially in school-based cases, and disparities for Latino and Black youth have deepened. From FY22 to FY24, school-initiated petitions for truancy and habitual school offenses increased by 13% and 15%, respectively. During the same period, CRA filings for Latino youth rose by 15%, while filings for white youth declined by 12% and filings for Black youth declined by 1%. As a result, in FY24, compared to white youth in Massachusetts, Latino youth were 3.5 times more likely to have a petition filed against them, and Black youth were 3.28 times more likely.

Alarming, young children between the ages of six and 12 continue to be pushed into the court system at an increasingly high rate, despite research showing that court involvement is developmentally inappropriate and potentially harmful.²

While some state agencies have made incremental progress toward reform (as highlighted in this report), substantial systemic change remains out of reach until the core structural issues within the CRA process are addressed through statutory change. Families continue to be directed to the Juvenile Court for support in addressing educational, behavioral health, and family system challenges even though – as the Board's report describes in detail – the Juvenile Court is not a service provider, and many families could be better supported if they were connected to appropriate community-based supports instead.

The state must take decisive action. Passing *An Act regarding families and children in need of assistance (S.141 / H.265)*, which was reintroduced this Legislative session, is a critical step forward. The bill reflects key recommendations from the JJPAD Board's report and aims to:

- Shift CRA cases out of the court and into Family Resource Centers (FRCs), where families can access support without legal involvement.

¹ Massachusetts Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board (JJPAD). (2022). Improving Massachusetts' Child Requiring Assistance System: An Assessment of the Current System and Recommendations for Improvement 10 Years Post "CHINS" Reform. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/improving-massachusetts-child-requiring-assistance-system-an-assessment-of-the-current-system-and-recommendations-for-improvement-10-years-post-chins-reform/download>

² Cauffman E, Beardslee J, Fine A, Frick PJ, Steinberg L. (2021). Crossroads in juvenile justice: The impact of initial processing decision on youth 5 years after first arrest. *Development and Psychopathology*. 2021;33(2):700-713. doi:10.1017/S095457942000200X

- Make court filings a true last resort by requiring prior community intervention.
- Address school-based filing increases by mandating FRC referrals and clarifying school responsibilities.
- Raise the minimum age of CRA court jurisdiction from 6 to 12.
- Expand public education on the CRA process and available alternatives.

To ensure the success of these reforms, the Legislature must also commit to sufficient funding for FRCs, allowing for greater staffing, case management, and community programming. While this shift would require upfront investment, it would ultimately reduce court costs and help free up judicial resources for more serious cases, improving outcomes across the child-serving system.

Massachusetts has a clear path forward. By enacting the proposed CRA legislation, the state can reduce unnecessary court involvement, address racial and geographic disparities, and provide more effective, developmentally appropriate support for children and families.

Introduction and Background

The Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) system was created in 2012 as a new iteration of the former Child in Need of Services (CHINS) system.³ Under this system, parents, schools, and police officers can file a petition with the court alleging that a child “requires assistance” from the state to help address behavioral concerns. This triggers a civil court process involving the child, their family, their respective attorneys, the Juvenile Court, and the Probation Department.

The goal of the CRA system is to connect the child and their family with services that can address behavioral issues and any underlying causes (e.g., mental health, trauma, ineffective educational supports) that, in theory, could help prevent future delinquent court involvement.

Since its formation in 2018, the JJPAD Board heard repeated concerns about the CRA system from multiple stakeholders, including families, advocates, practitioners in the delinquency and CRA systems, and community services providers. This led the group to spend two years researching the system, ultimately determining that the CRA system is not serving youth and their families as effectively as it could. [In a 2022 report](#), the Board published its findings, including:

- **Court involvement is unnecessary in many cases:** The Juvenile Court does not have access to “special” services beyond what is available in the community, and a court

³ An Act Regarding Families and Children Engaged in Services, Ch. 240. (2012).
<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2012/Chapter240>

order is typically not required to obtain these services. While service availability and waitlists are serious challenges to young people accessing the necessary supports, these are not problems the court system can solve.

- **Court involvement can be harmful to children and families:** A court process which is, by design, adversarial is not the best way to address what are often complex family dynamics and significant behavioral health challenges. An increasingly large body of research has documented the negative impact that court involvement of any kind can have on youth.⁴
- **There are significant disparities in which youth are subjects of a CRA petition,** including disparities for Black and Latino youth, youth with learning disabilities, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth who are immigrants or whose caregivers are. For example, at the time of publishing, Black and Latino youth were each 3 times more likely than white youth to be the subject of a CRA petition.
- **Barriers to accessing services outside the court process push families to the CRA system:** Families coming to the court are often desperate for help and are not receiving what they need from other service systems. In many cases, those same service systems are the ones recommending a family file a CRA, based on what seems to be a lack of understanding of what the CRA process entails or is able to accomplish.
- **There is a path forward for the state to improve the CRA system.** In its same report, the JJPAD Board recommended that the Commonwealth:
 1. Shift a significant portion of CRA cases from the court room to the community by:
 - a. Expanding the number and functions of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) across the state
 - b. Substantially increasing diversion of cases from the court to FRCs by revising the CRA filing process
 - c. Educating families and child-serving professionals about all options available for support
 - d. Explicitly addressing sources of bias (both individual and systemic) that may be leading to disproportionate referrals to the CRA system of certain demographics of youth, including Black and Latino youth

⁴ Cauffman E, Beardslee J, Fine A, Frick PJ, Steinberg L. (2021). Crossroads in juvenile justice: The impact of initial processing decision on youth 5 years after first arrest. *Development and Psychopathology*. 2021;33(2):700-713. doi:10.1017/S095457942000200X

2. Increase the availability of school and community-based services that specifically meet the needs of youth currently in CRA system by:

- a. Supporting community-based programs aimed at supporting youths' behavioral and mental health needs, as well as those that promote prosocial activities
- b. Executive branch agencies collaborating to identify program models that better meet the needs of youth struggling in out-of-home placements
- c. Addressing truancy by promoting effective student engagement practices that address root causes of truancy, and better identify both schools and students in need of extra support

What are Family Resource Centers (FRCs)?

Recognizing that youth in the former CHINS system often had complex and high needs that were not being addressed in a court setting, *An Act regarding families and children engaged in services* sought to provide community-based alternatives to court involvement. This led to the establishment, in 2012, of Family Resource Centers (FRCs), operating under the Department of Children and Families. FRCs provide a way for families and youth to get support in connecting to any needed services, while forgoing the negative consequences of court involvement.

FRCs have been found to be extremely effective at supporting families and children with their concerns and helping them address challenges.

In its [2024 report](#) on Family Resource Centers, the Office of the Child Advocate recommended **increasing FRC capacity, with the goal of expanding access and improving service delivery at FRCs.**

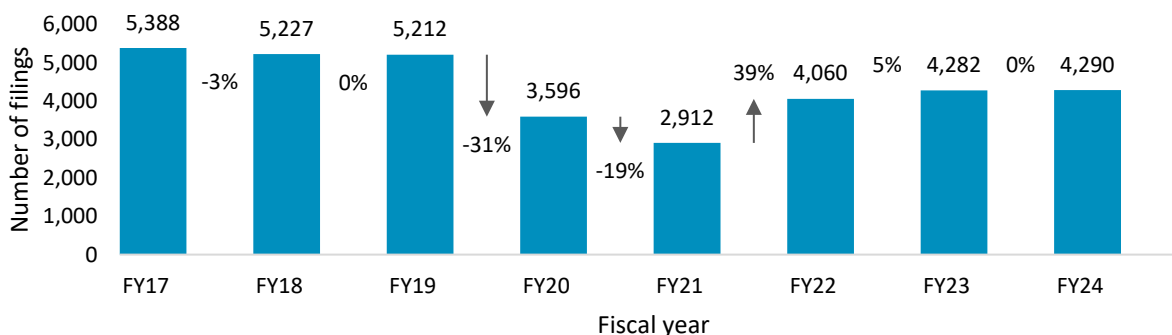
3. Continue to study implementation of these recommendations by:
 - a. Increasing data availability
 - b. Monitoring the implementation of policy changes and the impact of behavioral health system reforms on youth and families coming to the CRA system

FY23 and FY24 Key Data Themes

In each year since the JPAD published its report on the CRA system, CRA filings have increased, particularly school-based CRA petitions. This increase was somewhat anticipated, as there was an all-time low in CRA filings in FY20 and FY21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor's subsequent emergency response, the Juvenile Court's prioritization of emergency matters, and schools and businesses being shut down. Still, when comparing data on CRA filings

from FY23 and FY24 CRA to FY22, many of the data trends highlighted in that report have continued or worsened.

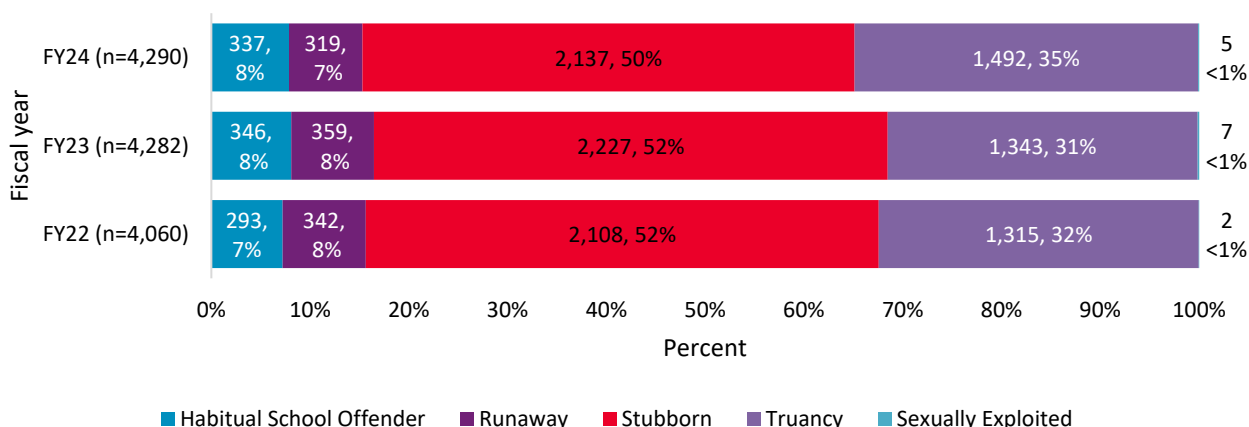
Figure 1:
CRA Filings (FY17-FY24)



Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved on 6/30/2025 from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page here:
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

- Total CRA petitions continue to rise.** Between FY22 and FY24, the number of CRA petitions filed with the Juvenile Court increased by 6%.⁵

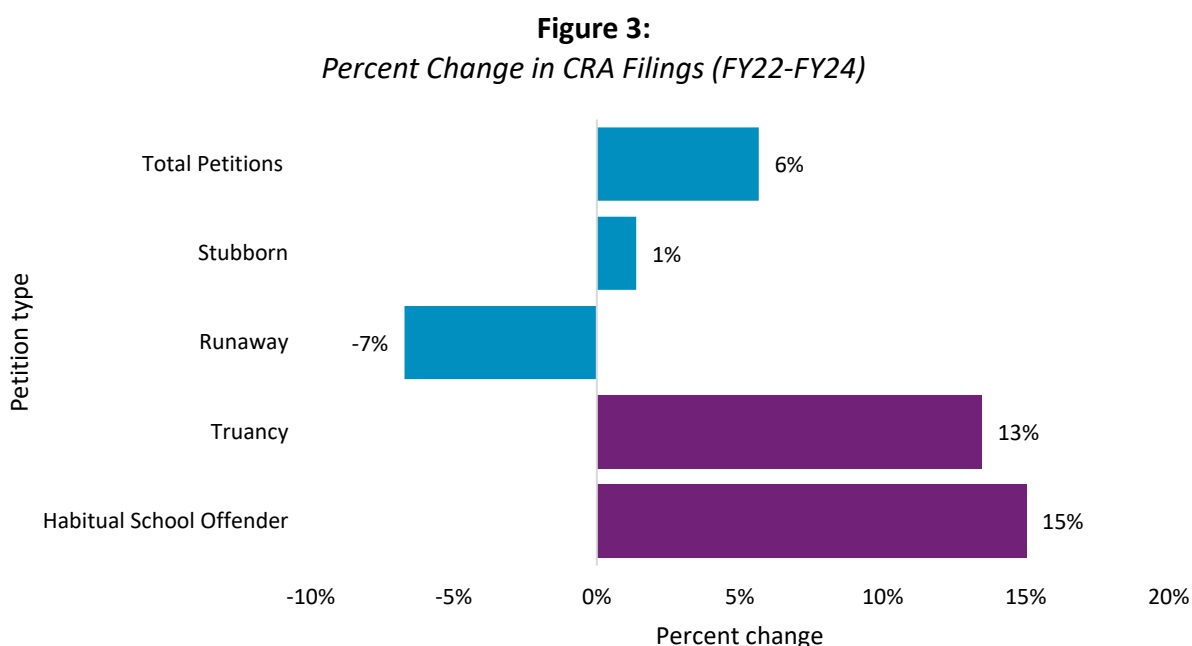
Figure 2:
CRA Filings by Petition Type (FY22-FY24)



Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved on 6/30/2025 from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page here:
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

⁵ For this report, the OCA uses the CRA classifications listed on Juvenile Court CRA petition forms to describe each petition type. For the statutory definition of each petition type, see Appendix A of this report.

2. **The increase is being driven by an increase in CRA petitions filed by schools.**⁶ Between FY22 and FY24, habitual school offender petitions increased 15% (representing 44 petitions) and truancy petitions increased 13% (representing 177 petitions). Meanwhile, the number of petitions filed by caregivers (i.e., stubborn and runaway) remained stable, with stubborn petitions increasing by only 1% (representing 29 petitions) and runaway petitions decreasing by 7% (representing 23 petitions).



Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved on 6/30/2025 from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page here:
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

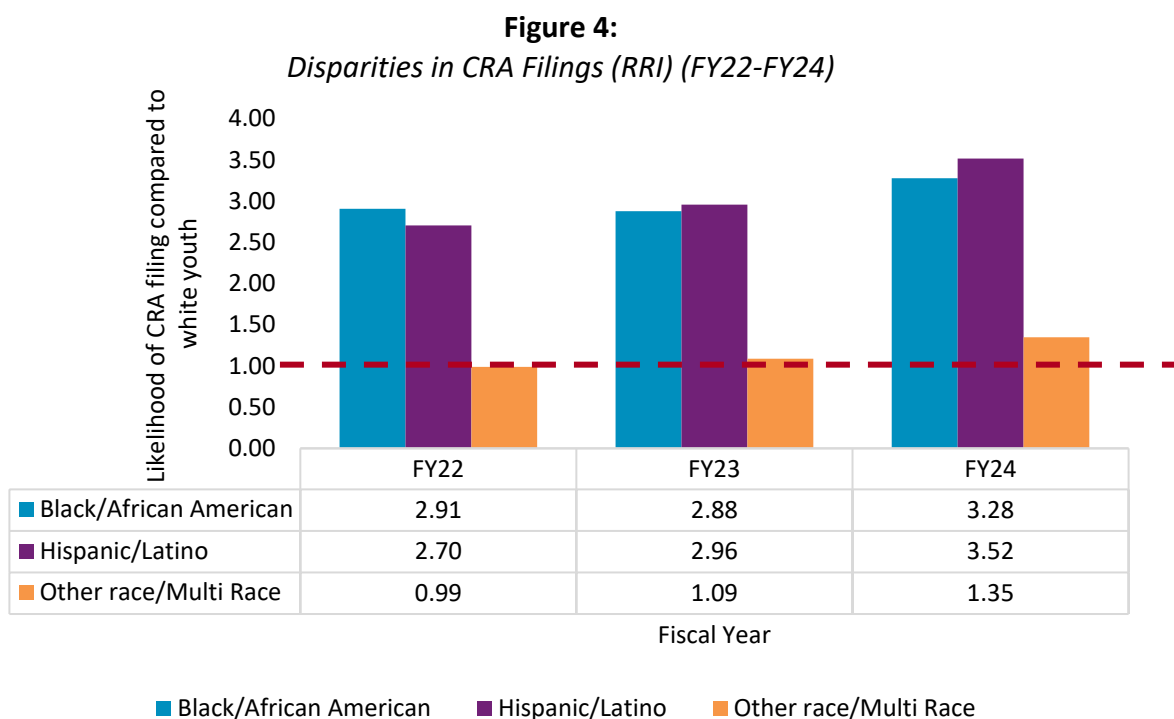
While *some* increase in school-based petitions was expected as youth returned to school after being home during the COVID-19 pandemic, the fact that community-based petitions remained relatively stable during the same timeframe indicates that this increase cannot be completely contributed to the return to a pre-pandemic norm.⁷

3. **Since FY22, racial and ethnic disparities in CRA filings have worsened.** Between FY22 and FY24, CRA petitions for Latino youth increased by 15% (representing 173 petitions), while petitions for white youth decreased by 12% (representing 168 petitions). Petitions for Black youth remained relatively consistent, decreasing by just 1% (representing 4 petitions). In FY24, compared to white youth (6-17) in Massachusetts:

⁶ Sexually exploited petition types were omitted from this analysis due to their small numbers relative to other filings.

⁷ Massachusetts required all schools to return to in-person teaching by May 17, 2021. This means that students were back in schools during the entire time period (FY22 to FY24) analyzed for this report.

- Latino youth were 3.52 times more likely to have a petition filed against them, compared to 2.70 in FY22
- Black youth were 3.28 times more likely to have a petition filed against them, compared to 2.91 times in FY22

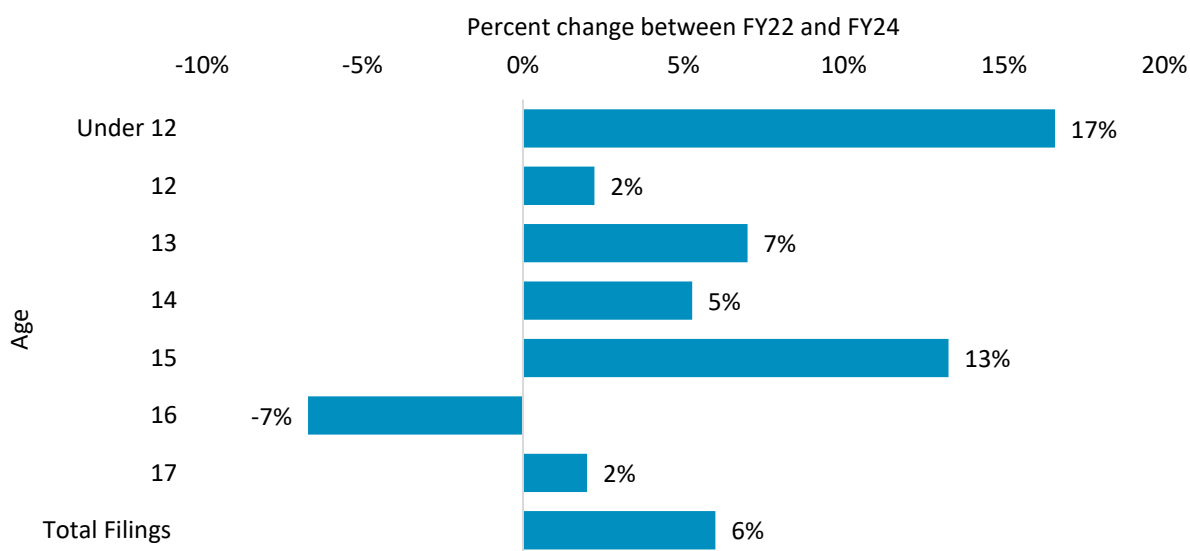


Relative Rate Index (RRI) is used to track racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. It compares how often youth of color are involved in the system compared to white youth, after accounting for each group's share of the overall youth population in Massachusetts (based on U.S. Census data). White youth serve as the benchmark and thus always have an RRI of 1.00. An RRI **above 1.00** means youth of color are **more likely** to be involved at a particular stage of the system, while an RRI **below 1.00** means they are **less likely** to be involved. The dotted line above marks the rate for white youth, helping illustrate whether youth of color are over- or underrepresented in CRA filings compared to the general population of Massachusetts (youth ages 6 to 17).

Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved on 6/30/2025 from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page here:
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

- Youth under 12 continue to be referred to the CRA system.** The number of CRA filings for youth under 12 increased at the highest rate between FY22 and FY24. As was highlighted in the Board's 2022 report, a CRA petition can be filed on a youth as young as 6 years old. The Board raised concerns about the developmental appropriateness of this, noting that the harmful effects of the court process could be particularly damaging for this younger cohort. In 2018, the state acknowledged the need to keep more youth out of the Juvenile Court process and, therefore, raised the age of delinquency proceedings from 7 to 12. The same reasoning and principles to keeping youth out of court apply to CRA proceedings.

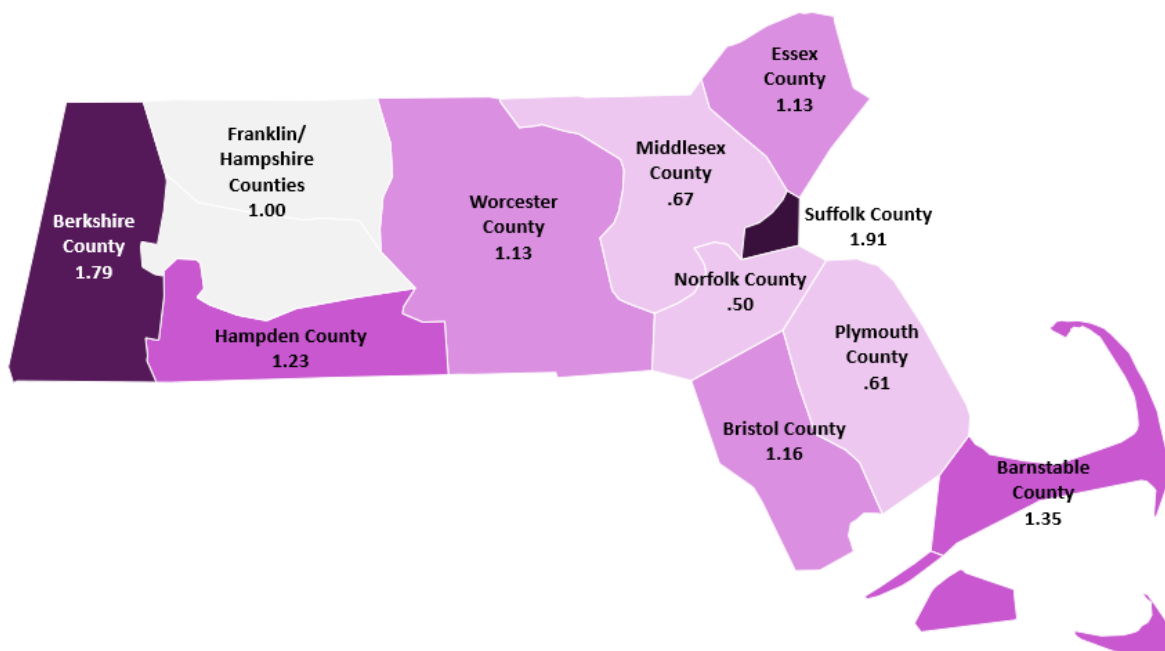
Figure 5:
Percent Change in CRA Filings by Age (FY22-FY24)



Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved on 6/30/2025 from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page here:
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

- Geographic differences in the number and types of petitions remain.** Similar to the trends highlighted in the Board's 2022 report, some counties are overrepresented in CRA filings. For example, compared to the number of youth (6-17 years old) in each county eligible for a CRA petition, youth in Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties were overrepresented in CRA filings. Youth in Suffolk County were subject to a CRA filing at about twice the rate of their county population.

Figure 6:
Disparities in CRA Filings by County (RoD) (FY24)



The Rate of Disproportionality (RoD) is used to highlight inequality in CRA filings across Massachusetts counties. It compares the percentage of youth with a CRA filing in a county to that county's share of the state's youth population (ages 6-17). **A RoD above 1.00 means** youth in that county are **overrepresented in CRA filings**, while a RoD **below 1.00 shows they are underrepresented**. See Appendix A of this report for geographical disparities over time.

Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved on 6/30/2025 from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page here:
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

Similarly, geographic differences in the *types* of petitions being filed remain. Most notably, the Board reported that in FY22, Suffolk and Bristol Counties were overrepresented in school-based petitions. In FY24:

- Habitual school offender petitions were filed more frequently in Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk compared to other counties.
- Truancy petitions were filed more frequently in Bristol, Norfolk, and Suffolk compared to other counties.⁸

⁸ For CRA filings by county and petition type, see Appendix B.

Bright Spots: Efforts to Decrease CRA System Use Since 2022

Since the Board's report, state agencies have worked to address overuse of the CRA system. However, as the data above indicates, challenges remain that only structural changes through statutory reforms can address.

DCF is currently working to re-procure FRCs. While that process is ongoing, the re-procurement process provides an opportunity to incorporate increased case management and conferencing support at FRCs to help families avoid a CRA filing.

DESE has been working to support districts and schools reduce their CRA filings by:

- **Communicating about alternatives to filing a CRA and what to consider before filing one.** One example of this is in the [Attendance Guidance](#) (see Truancy section). More generally, this includes sharing information about resources that school districts can connect families to, such as [Family Resource Centers](#), [Mass 2-1-1](#), and [HandholdMA.org](#). DESE also supports efforts that strengthen schools' relationships with families and build [family-school partnerships](#) in support of student attendance, wellness, and success.
- **Launching several initiatives related to reducing chronic absenteeism.** This includes providing technical assistance and capacity-building support to targeted, high-needs districts to reduce chronic absences and increase student engagement and belonging; engaging districts in educational campaigns designed to share the importance of attendance with families and students, such as the [Power of Presence campaign](#); and providing \$10,000 grants to 175 districts for work to improve chronic absenteeism rates.

The **ED Law Project of CPCS** has conducted 87 trainings on education advocacy for 2,640 participants, which include attorneys, parents, social workers, education advocates, parents, youth workers, School Resource Officers, and clinicians. This included a specific training on CRAs, including what they are, what they offer, and alternatives to filing, for 60 youth workers through Children's Services of Roxbury, as well as 40 trainings for 1,266 CPCS staff and private bar attorneys on topics ranging from special education, school discipline, the new IEP, filing state complaints, bullying, Title IX, and the use of exclusionary time out.

Through a federal grant initiative, **DMH** has hosted interagency conversations on addressing contributing factors to youth violence/aggression and is implementing a cognitive behavioral therapy program through two contracted providers.

The **OCA**, through the work of its Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma, launched the Trauma and Racial Equity Empowerment (TREE) Academy to train stakeholders to use a trauma-responsive and racial equity lens to improve well-being for the children, youth, and families in child-serving systems.

A Path Forward

Since the JJPAD Board published its 2022 report, there has been some progress made by individual agencies on implementing the recommendations. However, the data shows that CRA filings continue to rise, and that many of the problems identified in 2022 remain or, in some cases, are worsening.

A bill incorporating several of the Board's recommendations was introduced and reported favorably out of the Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities Committee last legislative session. ***An Act regarding families and children in need of assistance (S.141 / H.265)***, which was re-introduced this current session by Senator Robyn Kennedy and Representative Rita Mendes, introduces sweeping changes to the support systems and legal processes for families and children in Massachusetts, aiming to strengthen community-based interventions and prevent the need for court involvement. Specifically, the bill:

- **Mitigates the harmful effects of the court process, while still connecting families to the services and supports they need.** The bill expands the role and function of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to support more children and families outside of the court process. The current CRA process provides an opportunity to bring together professionals from multiple state agencies, service providers, and/or advocates to identify needed supports for a child. This is valuable, but there is no reason it has to happen in a court room, or that it needs to wait until after a petition has been filed.

This bill would move this process to the FRCs and ensure that it occurs prior to court involvement. FRCs would assign each family a case manager and – when necessary – convene a multidisciplinary CRA diversion team to identify and connect a youth and family to needed community- and state-supports.

- **Changes the Juvenile Court CRA filing process to ensure the court is a true “last resort.”** Families are frequently referred to the CRA court process by educators, therapists, social workers, and doctors, often before a family has had the opportunity to engage with an FRC or other community services. These professionals are often unaware of the limited response options available to the Juvenile Court or even what the CRA process entails – including the fact that a family may lose custody of their child through this process.

This bill would require that a probation officer determine that all community-based options have been exhausted by the petitioner *prior* to the filing of a CRA petition to ensure that the court process is reserved as a true last resort. The probation officer will help the family connect to community services, including a local FRC, prior to filing.

- **Addresses the increase and geographic disparities in school-based petition filings.** The bill requires school districts statewide to refer a family to an FRC at least 45 days prior to filing a CRA petition and clarifies that schools shall not initiate a CRA petition to address responsibilities that fall within the schools' legal responsibility under federal and state law.
- **Raises the lower age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction for CRA filings.** The bill raises the age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction from 6 to 12, which is more developmentally appropriate and would align with the state's delinquency system. Annually, about 5-6% of CRA filings are for youth under the age of 12.
- **Educates the public on the CRA process, and other supports available to families.** The bill requires the OCA to prepare and update materials about the CRA system, which includes a video and brochure for families explaining the CRA process and alternatives to filing and requires the Juvenile Court to publish the materials on its website.

It is important to note that, for this bill to successfully make the necessary changes to the CRA system, **the Legislature must also commit to sufficient funding for the state's FRCs** to ensure they can handle an increase in cases.

While this would require an increase in funding for FRCs, the state would see subsequent reductions in court processing costs. For every CRA case that is resolved at an FRC instead of the Juvenile Court, there would be a reduction in the costs of processing cases (court clerks), staffing court hearings (judges, court officers, CAFL attorneys), and managing ongoing CRA cases (probation officers, CAFL attorneys).

In recent years the Juvenile Court system has struggled with delays in court proceedings, specifically in delinquency and care and protection cases, as result of the unavailability of judicial staff/court space as well as, in some counties, CAFL attorneys.⁹ These delays can have a serious negative impact on children, families, and the delivery of justice.¹⁰ Diverting the

⁹ State House News. (2024). Judges Stretched Thin in Busy Juvenile Court. https://www.statehousenews.com/judges-stretchedthin-in-busy-juvenile-court/article_dbb65bfc-7f6d-11ef-a99a-772c3e11bbba.html; State House News. (2018). House Okays Raises to Lure Child Welfare Attorneys to Western Mass. https://www.statehousenews.com/archives/house-okays-raises-to-lure-child-welfare-attorneys-in-western-mass/article_86378f1f-5adc-5e91-bdab-1aa046dfac13.html

¹⁰ [The Massachusetts Juvenile Justice Data and Policy Board](https://www.mass.gov/doc/improving-massachusetts-juvenile-pretrial-phase-an-assessment-of-the-current-pretrial-system-and-recommendations-for-improvement/download) (JJPAD). (2025). Improving Massachusetts' Juvenile Pretrial Phase: An Assessment of the Current Pretrial System and Recommendations for Improvement. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/improving-massachusetts-juvenile-pretrial-phase-an-assessment-of-the-current-pretrial-system-and-recommendations-for-improvement/download>; Laughlin, J. (2025). 'It was horrible': For parents who lose custody of their children to the state, a too-long wait. The Boston Globe. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/02/28/metro/it-was-horrible-parents-who-lose-custody-their-children-state-too-long-wait/>

majority of CRA cases from the Juvenile Court to Family Resource Centers would help free up court personnel resources to address a variety of other juvenile court cases more efficiently and promote better outcomes for youth and their families.

Conclusion

In the three years since the JJPAD Board issued its report on the CRA system, CRA filings have continued to increase, even while youth, their families, and system stakeholders continue to report that the system is not producing positive outcomes. While some individual state agencies have worked to address the overuse of the CRA system, and implement some of the Board's recommendations, **the state can do more to provide children and families with the necessary supports to be successful in their home, school, and community with as little court intervention as possible.**

A clear path forward is to pass *An Act regarding families and children in need of assistance (S.141 / H.265)*, which was re-introduced this Legislative session. The bill makes many of the structural changes needed to successfully implement the recommendations made by the JJPAD Board.

Appendix A: Statutory Definition of CRA Petitions

Table 2: Statutory Definition of CRA Petitions

Petition Name	Statutory Definition
"Child requiring assistance", a child between the ages of 6 and 18 who:	
Runaway	repeatedly runs away from the home of the child's parent, legal guardian or custodian.
Stubborn	repeatedly fails to obey the lawful and reasonable commands of the child's parent, legal guardian or custodian, thereby interfering with their ability to adequately care for and protect the child.
Habitual School Offender	repeatedly fails to obey the lawful and reasonable regulations of the child's school.
Truancy	is habitually truant - not excused from attendance under the lawful and reasonable regulations of such child's school, who willfully fails to attend school for more than 8 school days in a quarter.
Sexually Exploited	is sexually exploited.

Source: An Act Regarding Families and Children Engaged in Services, Ch. 240, Sec. 3. (2012).

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2012/Chapter240>

Appendix B: CRA Filings by Demographics & Court County

Table 3: Counts of CRA Filings by Race/Ethnicity (FY22-FY24)

Race/Ethnicity	MA Youth (6-17) Population	FY22	FY23	FY24
Black/African American	94,607	682	672	678
Hispanic/Latino	177,059	1,188	1,292	1,361
White	572,063	1,419	1,412	1,251
Other race/Multi Race	79,042	194	212	233
Not reported	0	577	692	766
Total	922,771	4,060	4,280	4,289

Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page on 6/30/25 here:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>; Massachusetts population data retrieved from EZAPOP here: <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>

Table 4: Measures of Disparities in CRA Filings (RoD) (FY22-FY24)

Race/Ethnicity	FY22	FY23	FY24
Black/African American	1.64	1.53	1.54

Table 4: Measures of Disparities in CRA Filings (RoD) (FY22-FY24)

Hispanic/Latino	1.52	1.57	1.65
White	0.56	0.53	0.47
Other race/Multi Race	0.56	0.58	0.63

Rate of Disproportionality (RoD) is an indicator of inequality calculated by dividing the percentage of youth with a CRA filing in a racial/ethnic group by the percentage of youth in that same racial/ethnic group in the Massachusetts youth census. RoDs greater than 1.0 indicate overrepresentation. RoDs less than 1.0 indicate underrepresentation.

Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page on 6/30/25 here:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

Table 5: Counts of CRA Filings by Age (FY22-FY24)

Age	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Under 12	205	230	239
12	359	381	367
13	631	669	678
14	947	969	998
15	979	1,109	1,110
16	643	599	599
17	289	324	296
Not Reported	7	2	3
Total	4,060	4,283	4,290

Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page on 6/30/25 here:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

Table 6: Disparities in CRA Filings by County (FY22-FY24)

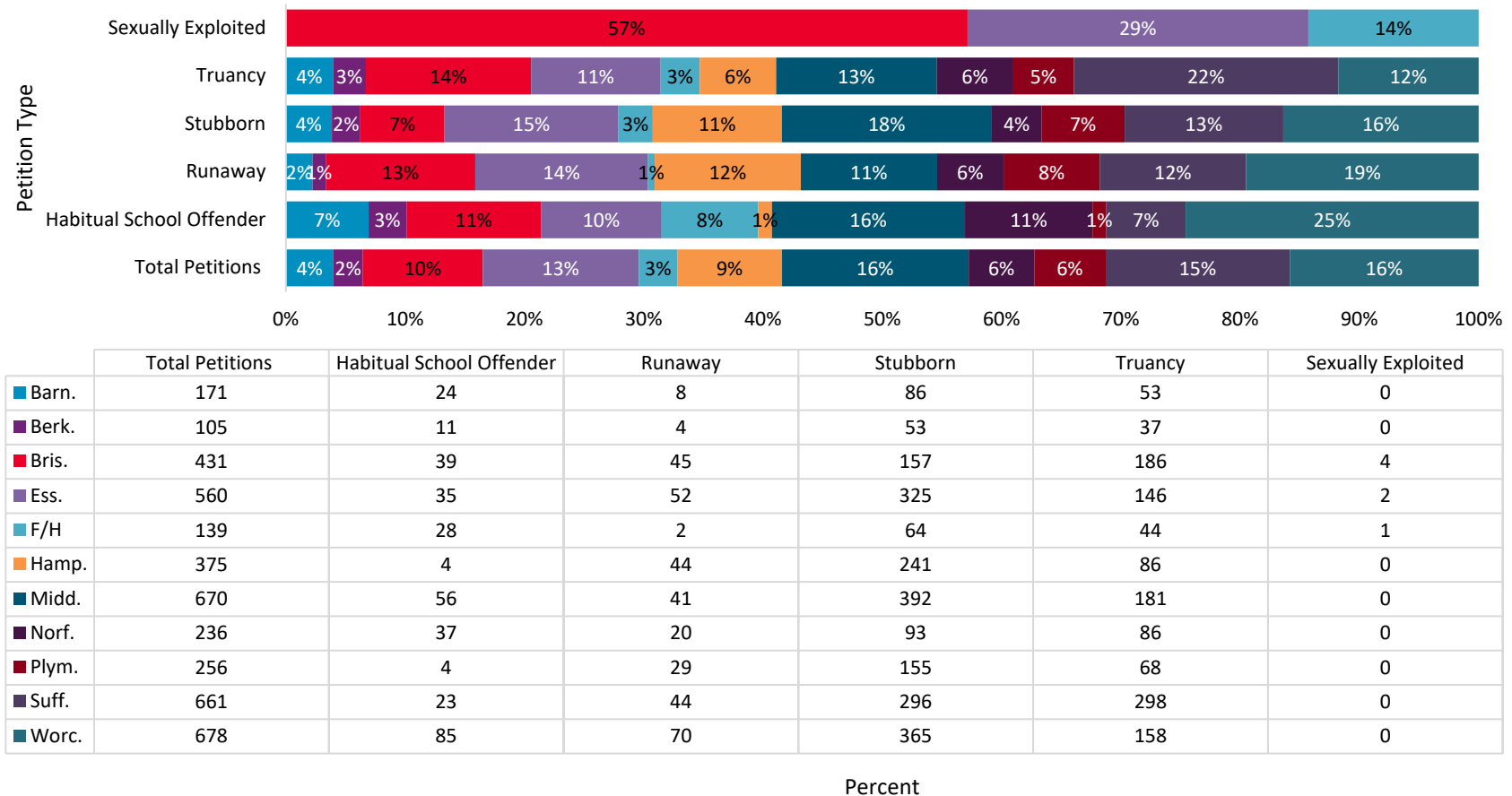
	FY22 Filings (n=4,060)	FY23 Filings (n=4,282)	FY24 filings (n=4,290)
Barnstable	1.34	1.36	1.35
Berkshire	2.42	1.58	1.79
Bristol	1.28	1.13	1.16
Essex	1.00	1.06	1.13
Franklin/Hampshire	1.51	1.21	1.00
Hampden	0.96	1.21	1.23
Middlesex	0.68	0.67	0.67
Norfolk	0.50	0.50	0.50
Plymouth	0.66	0.72	0.61
Suffolk	1.88	1.80	1.91
Worcester	1.09	1.20	1.13

Rate of Disproportionality (RoD) is an indicator of inequality calculated by dividing the percentage of youth (ages 6-17) with a CRA filing in a county by the percentage of youth in that same county in the Massachusetts youth census. RoDs greater than 1.0 indicate overrepresentation. RoDs less than 1.0 indicate underrepresentation.

Source: FY22-FY24 data retrieved on 6/30/2025 from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page here:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

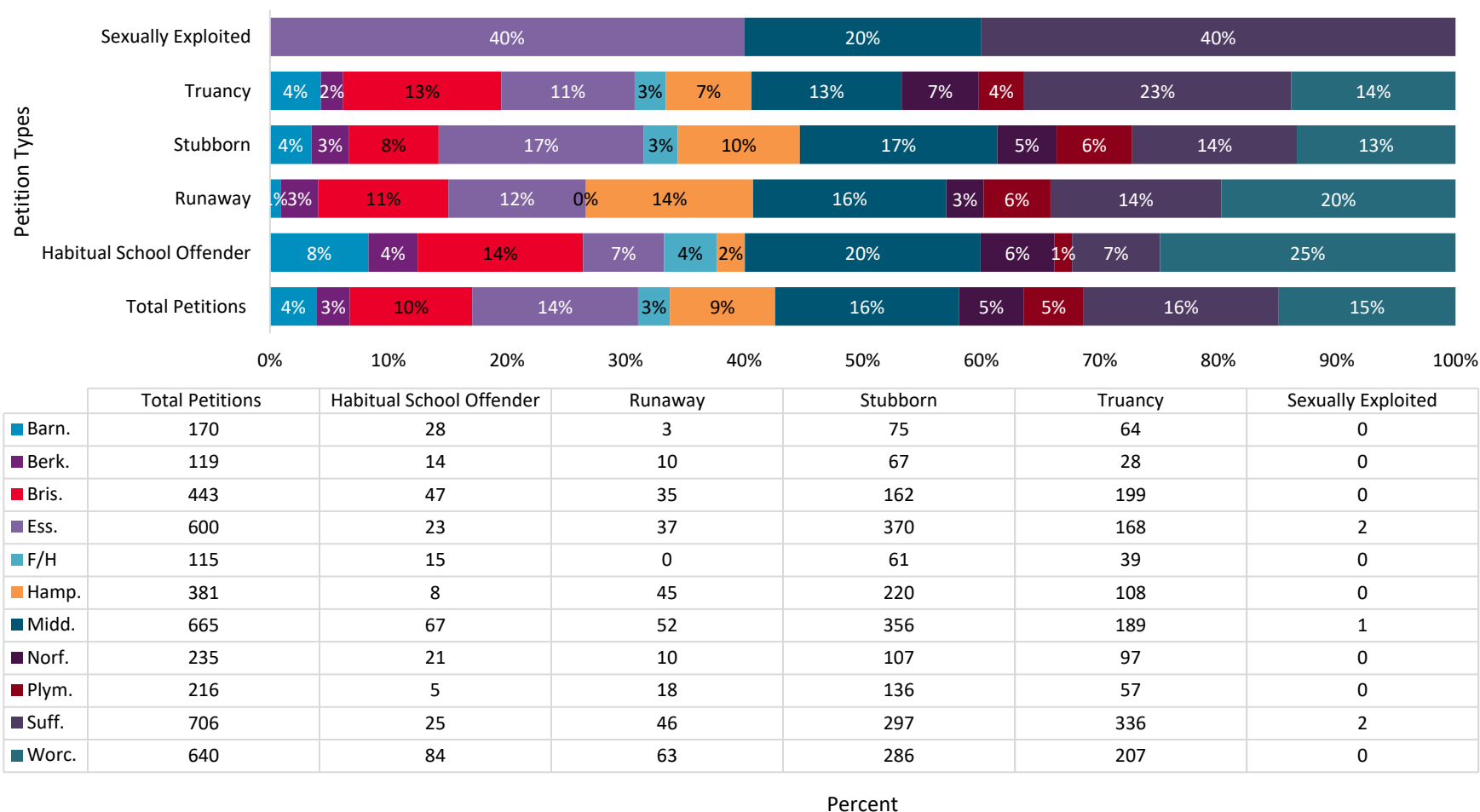
Figure 7:
FY23 CRA Petitions by County



Note: Court County Key: Barn. = Barnstable, Berk. = Berkshire, Bris. = Bristol, Ess. = Essex, F/H. = Franklin/Hampshire, Hamp. = Hampden, Midd. = Middlesex, Norf. = Norfolk, Plym. = Plymouth, Suff. = Suffolk, Worc. = Worcester; Source: FY23 data retrieved on 6/30/2025 from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page here:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

Figure 8:
FY24 CRA Petitions by County



Note: Court County Key: Barn. = Barnstable, Berk. = Berkshire, Bris. = Bristol, Ess. = Essex, F/H. = Franklin/Hampshire, Hamp. = Hampden, Midd. = Middlesex, Norf. = Norfolk, Plym. = Plymouth, Suff. = Suffolk, Worc. = Worcester; Source: FY24 data retrieved on 6/30/2025 from the Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page here:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/drap4687/viz/DemographicsofChildRequiringAssistanceFilings>

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