

Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board

Board Meeting

March 12, 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of December Meeting Minutes
3. Updates from the OCA
4. FY24 Annual Report
 - Review & Discussion: Key Data Themes
 - Motion to Approve & Submit to Legislature
5. 2025 Subcommittee Work Plan
6. Board Member Updates

OCA Announcements

1. Legislative Updates
2. Pretrial Report
3. Massachusetts Youth Diversion Program

Legislative Updates

- An Act regarding families and children in need of assistance (HD.2453/SD.1693)
- An Act promoting diversion of juveniles to community supervision and services (HD.3434/SD.246)



Re-filed this session

- An Act to enhance fairness and increase positive outcomes for children (HD.3240/SD.242)
- An Act to expand juvenile court justice access (HD.398)



New this session

Pretrial Report

- Published January 2025 here:
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/jjpadcttf-legislative-reports-and-key-documents>
- OCA will monitor implementation of the Board's recommendations and provide updates when possible
- OCA to present the report as part of a presentation to the Legislative Criminal Justice Reform Caucus on March 24th + April 9th public webinar



Massachusetts Youth Diversion Program

- Expanded to two more counties: Suffolk (RFK Community Alliance) and Norfolk (Bay State Community Services)
- The OCA will publish 2024 program data in a Year Three Impact Report this spring/summer

The Massachusetts Youth Diversion Program

Year 1: 2022

Essex County

(Family Services of the Merrimack Valley)

Middlesex
(NFI Massachusetts)

Worcester
(Advocates)

Year 2: 2023

Hampden County
(Gándara Center)

Plymouth County
(Old Colony YMCA)

Year 3: 2024

Bristol County
(Child and Family Services)

Cape and Islands
(Advocates)

Year 4: 2025

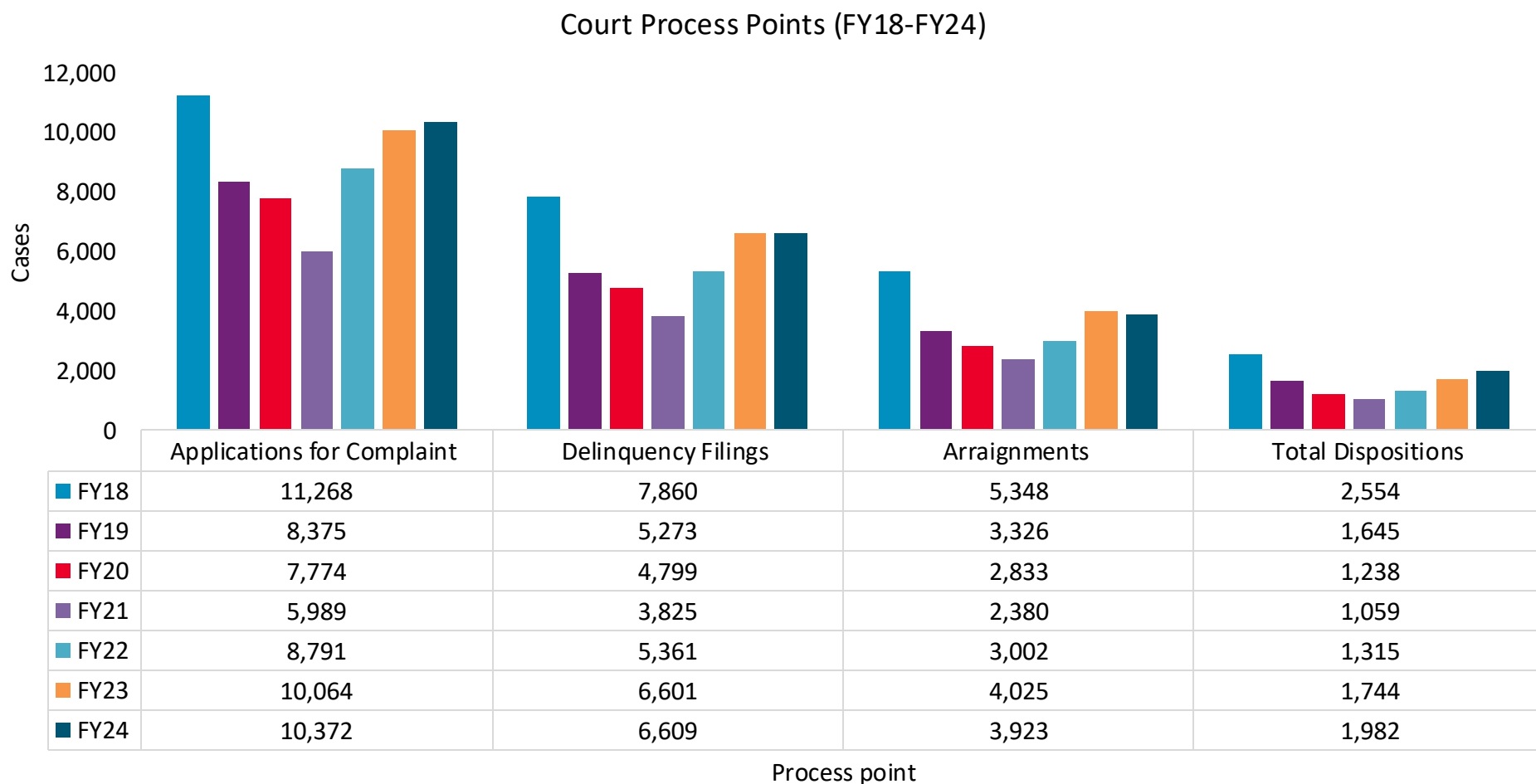
Suffolk County
(RFK Community Alliance)

Norfolk County
(Bay State Community Services)

FY24 Data Key Themes

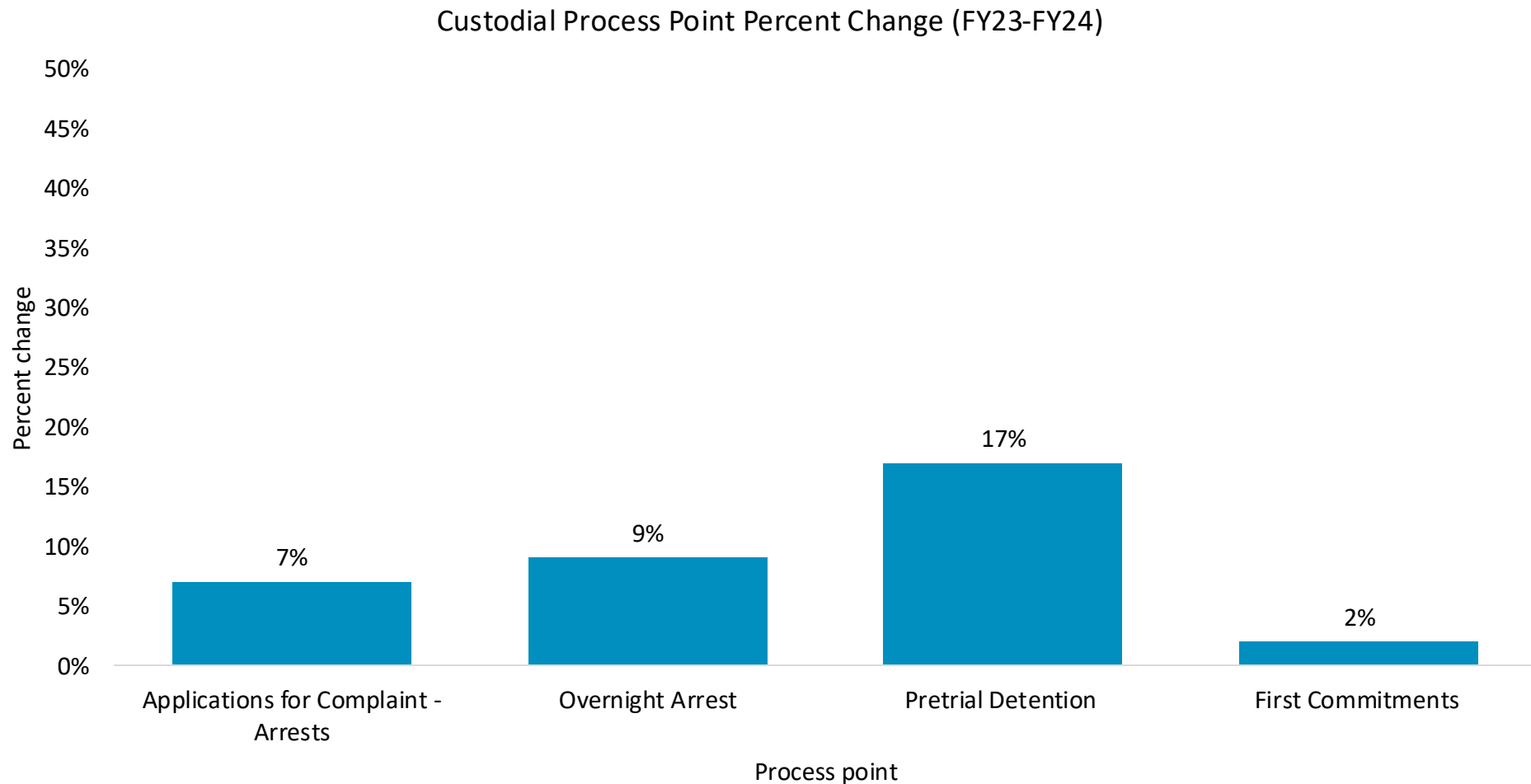
1. The increase in entries to the juvenile justice system has slowed significantly in the last year after two years of large increases following the pandemic.

The use of Massachusetts' juvenile justice system in FY24 was largely consistent with FY23 across most court process points



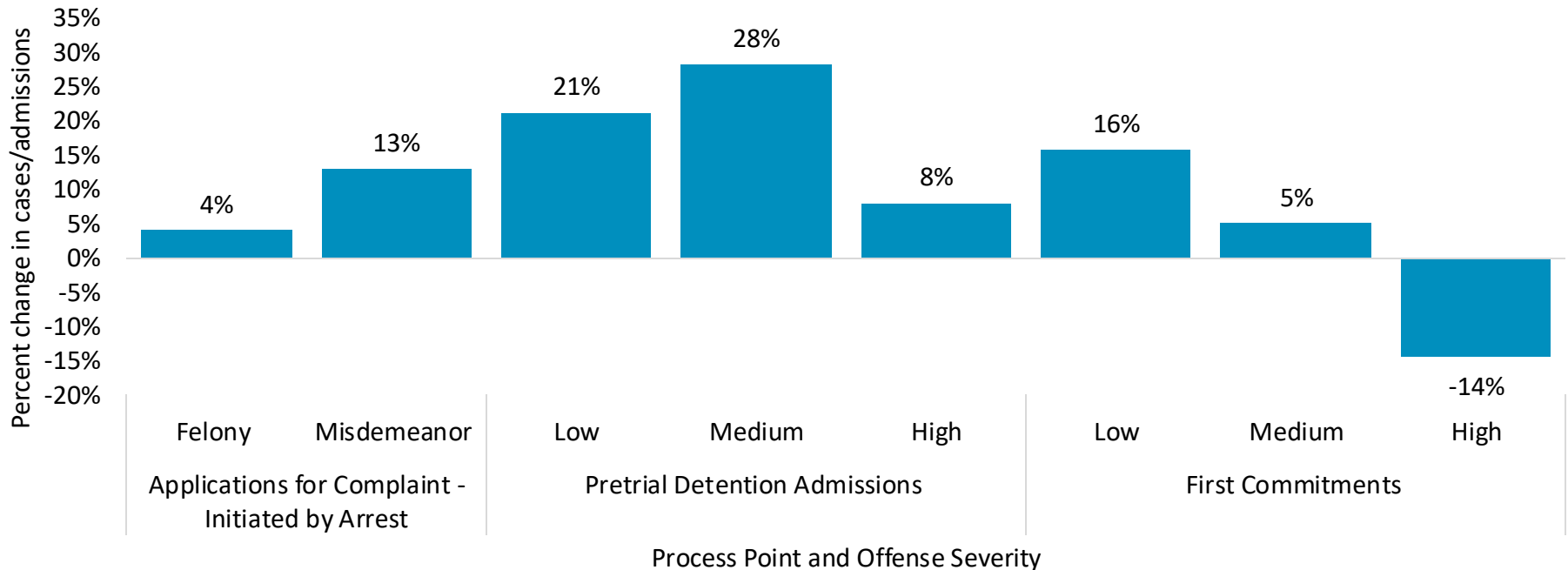
2. Despite the plateau in overall system use, the use of physical custody is increasing.

Specifically, the number of pretrial detention admissions increased 17% between FY23 and FY24, and the number of arrests increased 7%, while there was no increase in applications initiated by summons.

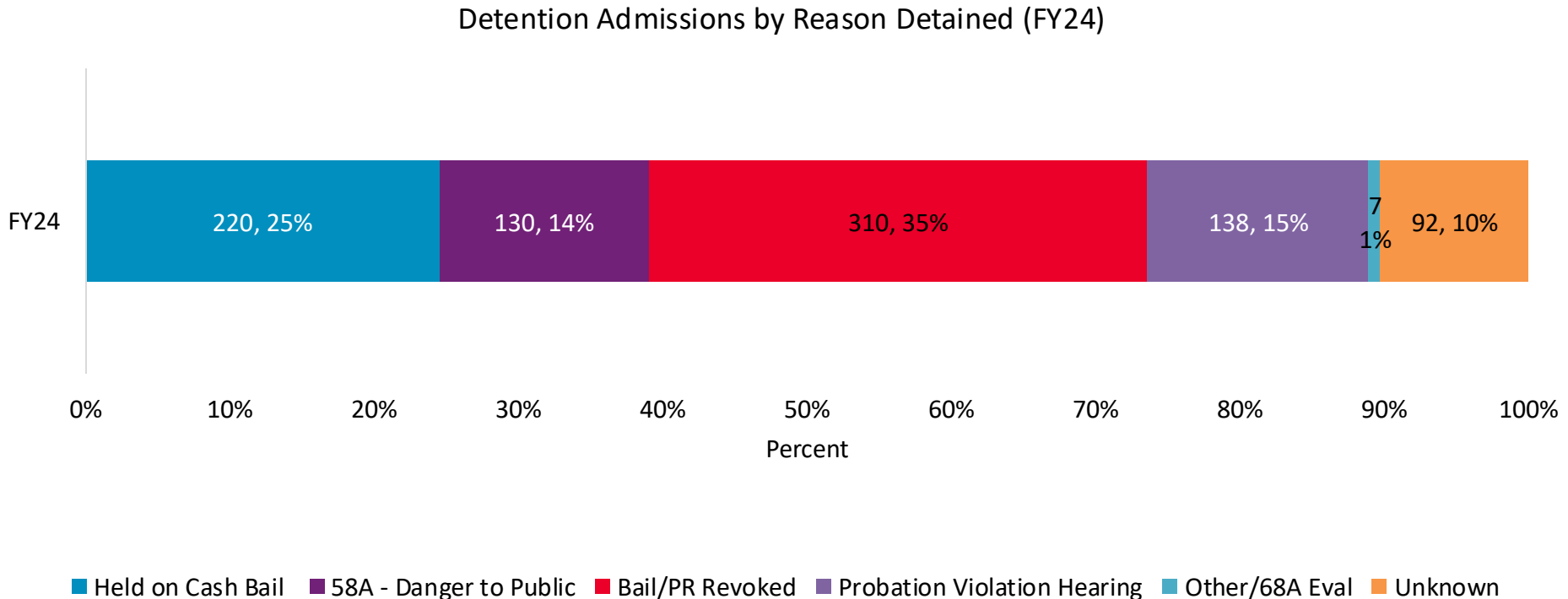


3. This increase in the use of physical custody is partially driven by an increase in misd. arrests and detention/commitment admissions for lower- "grid"- level offenses.

Percent Change in Cases/Admissions (FY23-FY24)



4. The vast majority of youth held in a locked detention facility are not found to be dangerous and not ultimately committed to DYS.

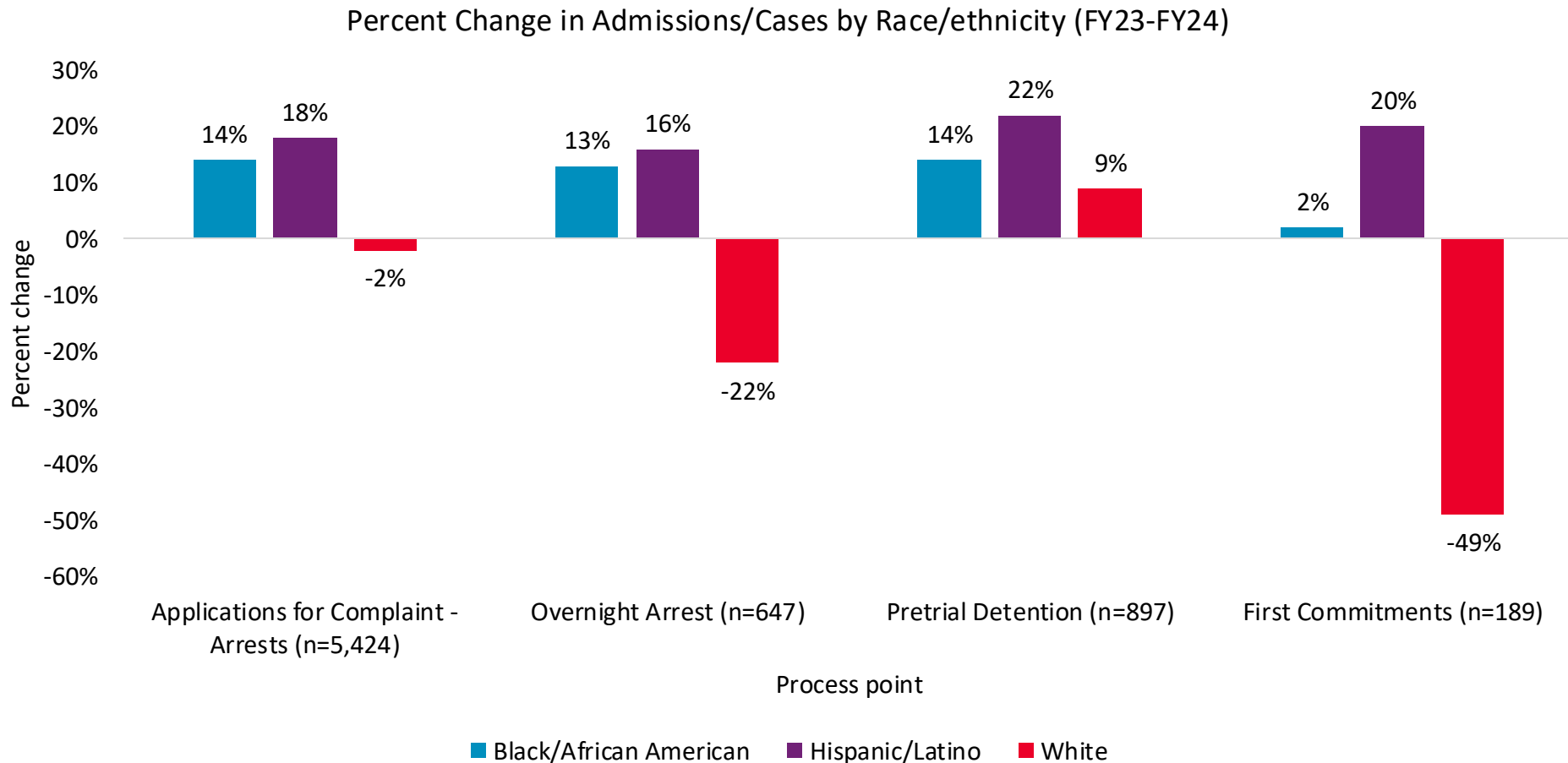


In FY24:

- 87% of pretrial detention admissions did not result in commitment.
- 86% of detention admissions were a result of something other than a determination that the alleged youth was “dangerous” as a result of a 58A hearing.

5. Racial disparities are worsening across many process points.

Disparities are worsening as a result of a *decrease* in system use for white youth, and an *increase* in system use for Black and Latino youth between FY23 and FY24.



5. Racial disparities are worsening across many process points.

Disparities are starkest at the “front door” of the juvenile justice system.

In FY24, compared to white youth, Black youth were:

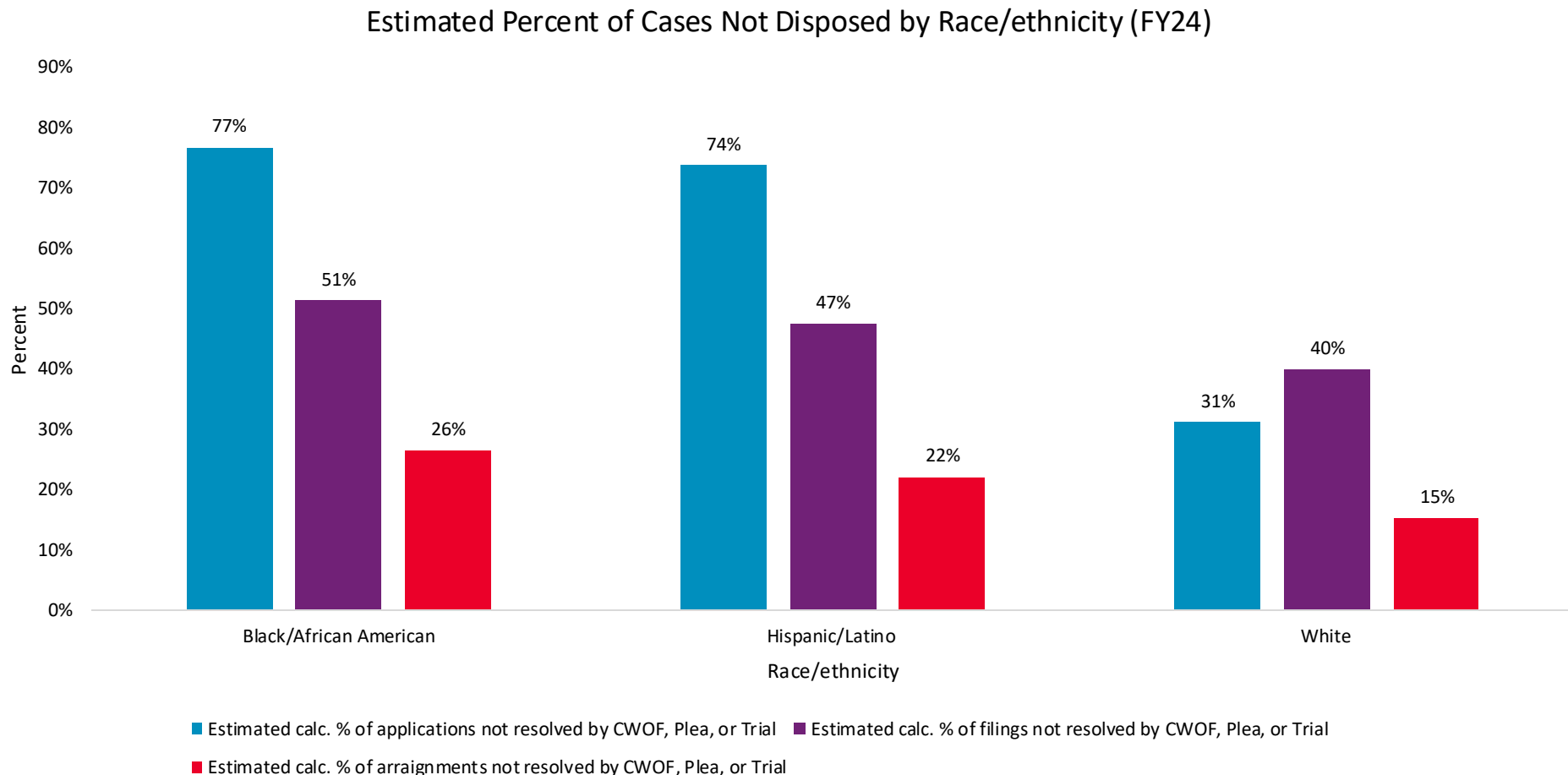
- 4.03 times more likely to be the subject of an application for complaint in Juvenile Court
 - 5.42 times more likely to be arrested
 - 2.96 times more likely to be issued a summons

In FY24, compared to white youth, Latino youth were:

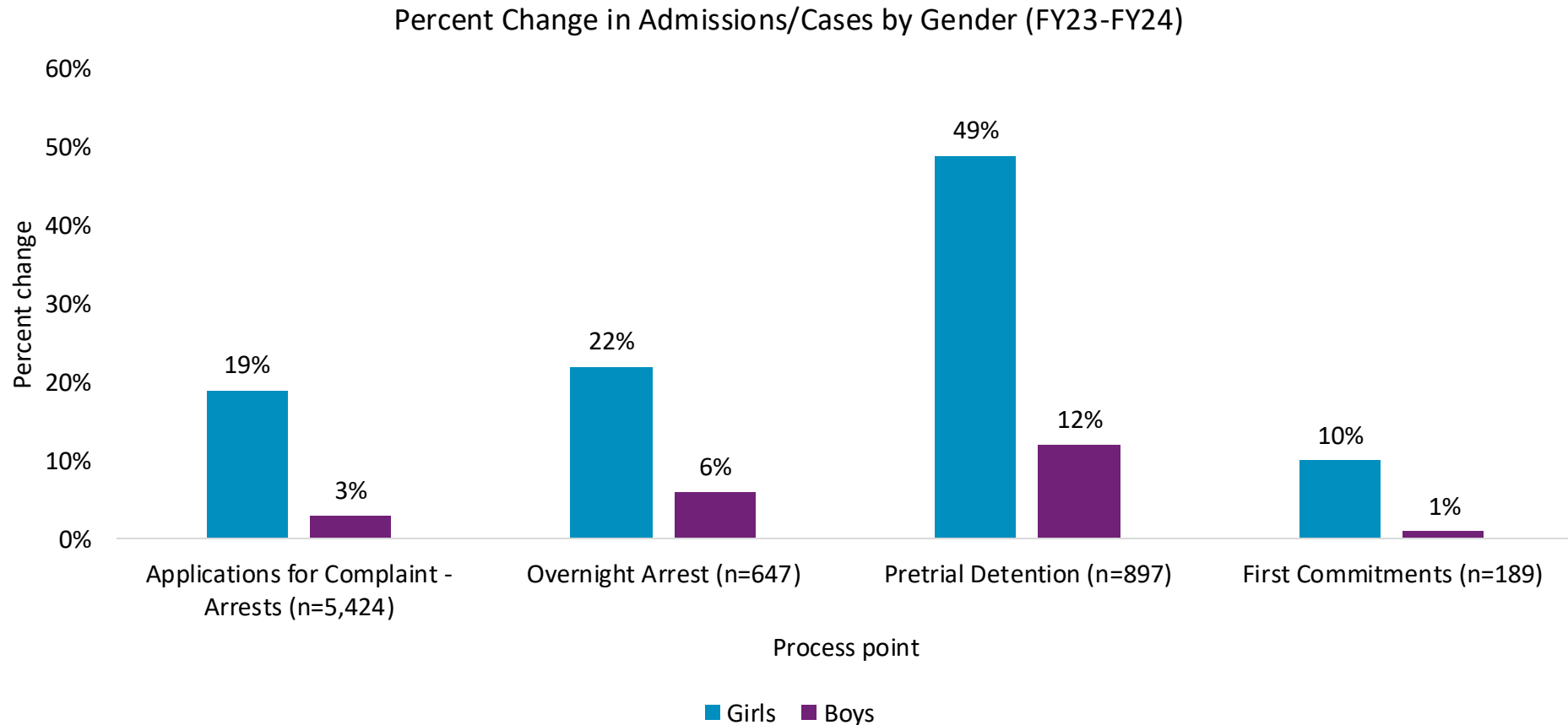
- 2.53 times more likely to be the subject of an application for complaint in Juvenile Court
 - 3.26 times more likely to be arrested
 - 1.98 times more likely to be issued a summons

5. Racial disparities are worsening across many process points.

Data shows that a greater percent of applications for complaint for Black and Latino youth are dismissed or diverted compared to those for white youth.

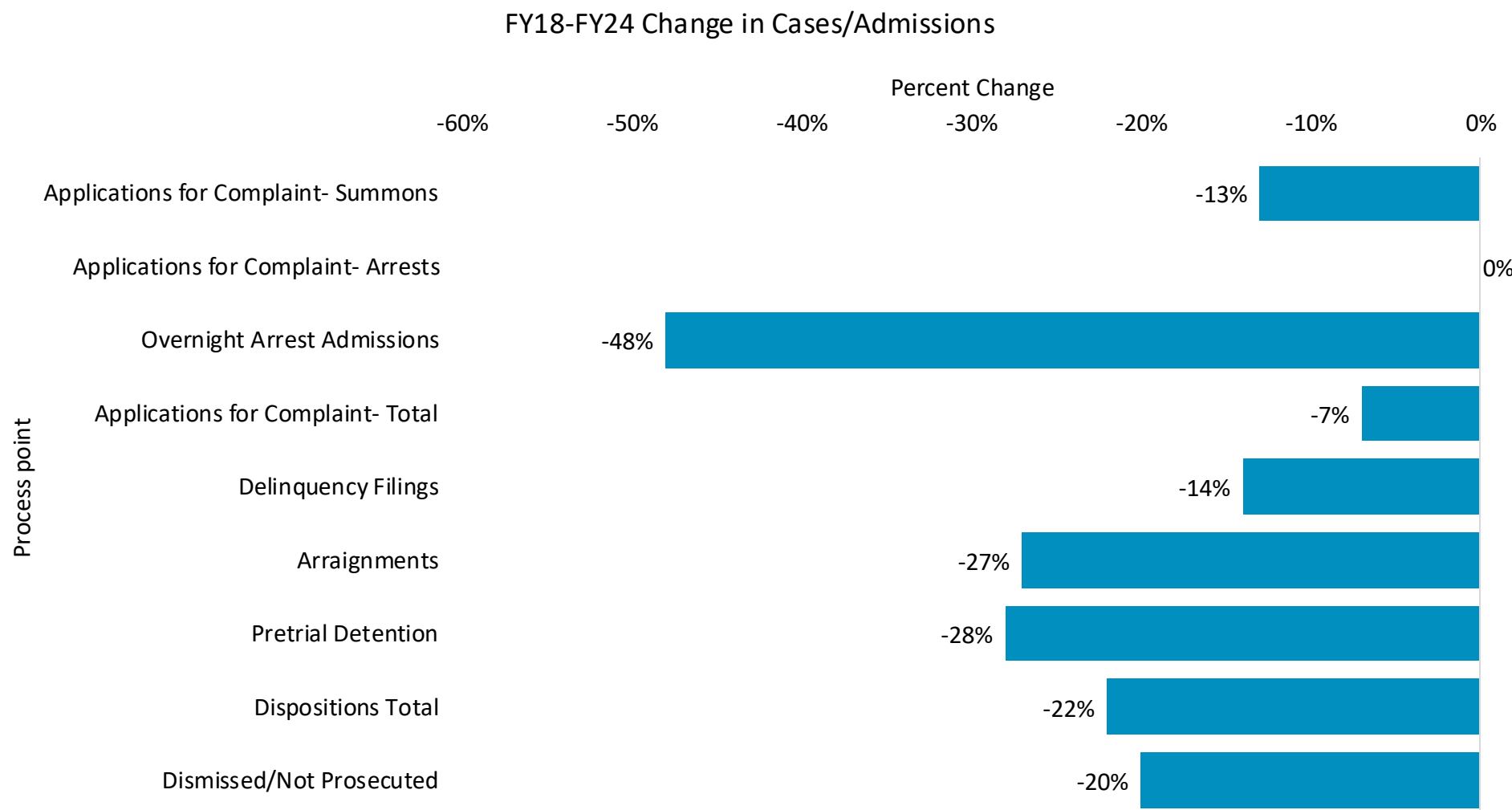


6. There are substantial increases in the use of physical custody for girls.



7. Key state-level reforms have made an impact on the number of young people coming into the system ...

The number of youth coming into contact with the juvenile justice system has declined across almost every process point for which the Board has data since the passing of the CJRA



7. ...but room for improvement, particularly in the use of physical custody, remains.

Arrests &

Overnight Arrest (ONA) Admissions

- In FY24, applications for complaint initiated by arrest returned to pre-CJRA numbers
- Between FY23 & FY24, arrests & ONA admissions increased for Black and Latino youth, but declined for white youth
- Arrests and ONA admissions increased for girls at higher rates than boys
- In FY24, 49% (n=320) of youth held on an ONA were not subsequently detained pretrial

Pretrial Detention

- Overall detention admissions are down 28% from FY18 – but in FY24, 48% (n= 428) of all detention admissions were for youth alleged of committing lower-grid level offenses
- In FY24, a third of youth (35%, n= 310) held in pretrial detention were held as a result of their bail or personal recognizance being revoked
- In FY24, Hispanic/Latino youth and Black youth were 2.47 and 2.08 times more likely to be detained pretrial than white youth, respectively
- Between FY23 & FY24 pretrial detention admissions for girls increased 49%

The Board is concerned about the trends in system use of custodial process points, and **encourages the state to implement recommendations that the Board has made** in prior reports, specifically those related to use of arrests and pretrial detention, as well as those pertaining to racial and ethnic disparities

Divert more youth pre-arraignment

- Expand opportunities for state diversion
- Expand both the MYDP & the list of offenses eligible for judicial diversion

Improve how pretrial conditions of release are set and re-visited & create a well-resourced continuum of interventions for supervision in the community vs. detention

- Provide more guidance on setting conditions for youth
- Redevelop the form used by the juvenile court when conditions are set for release
- Provide more guidance on the process for revisiting pretrial conditions of release for youth and addressing violations

Review data, policies and decision making around the use of an arrest

- Police departments should:
 - Review internal data to see if there are disparities in arrest
 - Require officers to document why they decide to arrest youth vs. seeking a summons
 - Review policies and practices to see if any are contributing to RED in arrests

Proposed Report Edits

| Page/Section | Proposed Edits | Proposed by |
|--|---|-------------|
| Pg. 12 DIY Project Plan | A youth with current DCF involvement was 40 times more likely to be detained in FY24 than a youth in Massachusetts who was not currently involved with DCF. | DCF |
| Pg. 12 DIY Project Plan, Pg. 96 DIY Data | DYS defines DCF involvement as a youth who enters DYS care/custody and is either has a pending response, open case with DCF, or is in the care/custody of DCF or has an open pending response or open case with DCF. Due to multiple factors including but not limited to the definition of open case, the definition of dually involved youth, the quality of the youth matching process, and the data quality and timeliness of data entry, these counts and rates will vary. Numbers in this report should not be compared to other reports. Data is unavailable for youth with DCF involvement at other points of the juvenile justice system (e.g., arraigned, placed on probation). Further breakdowns can be found in the “Specific Cohorts” section of this report. | DCF |
| Pg. 13 DIY Project Plan | Case File Review: Additionally, OCA staff will conduct a case file review for each youth identified. The goal of this case file review is to collect and analyze detailed qualitative data on the circumstances surrounding the alleged delinquent offense that initiated contact with the juvenile justice system (e.g., time and place of arrest) as well as the youth’s involvement with DCF. | DCF |
| Pg. 34 Prior Board Recommendations that address this year’s data | The state should create a well-resourced continuum of interventions across state entities (e.g., agencies within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Massachusetts Probation Service) for supervision in the community that meet the individual needs of each youth rather than pretrial detention. | DCF |

Next Steps

- A final round of editing based on today's meeting, formatting, and typos before submitting it to the Legislature
- OCA to present the report as part of the 2024 annual report webinar on April 9th at 1pm
- The OCA will publish specific briefs (girls, RED, county level) in the spring/summer using data published in the annual report



2025 Work Plan

DIY: 2024 Recap

Data

- Working with our partners at DCF & DYS to procure data

Stakeholder Interviews

- 68 interviews conducted, representing 97 stakeholders including young adults who were dually-involved as youth, DCF, provider agencies, DYS, judges, defense attorneys, other state agencies, and the advocacy community

What's ahead

2025

- Case file review & data analysis
- National landscape review in what other states are doing re: prevention, reentry & community supports
- Review of relevant MA policies

Subcommittee Work Plans

CBI Subcommittee

Winter/Spring

- DIY project presentations, including key themes heard in interviews, state agency presentations, and national research

Summer/Fall

- DIY project presentations, including OCA's data deep dive & analysis, and best practices in other jurisdictions
- DIY draft findings

Winter 2025/2026

- Discusses draft DIY recommendations & finalizes report for submission to the Board

Data Subcommittee

Spring

- Review OCA data briefs (girls, RED, county-level)

Summer/Fall

- Review analysis of DIY data deep dive and case file review
- FY25 Data Analysis

Winter 2025/2026

- 2025 Annual Report Data Review

Childhood Trauma Task Force

Summer

- Review and discuss findings from State Agencies' Trauma & Resilience Training Requirements and Opportunities project

Fall

- Identify action items stemming from the State Agencies' Trauma & Resilience Training Requirements and Opportunities project

Winter

- Vote on FY25 Annual Report and execute on action items

Full Board

Summer

- DIY project update & discussion

Fall

- Review and discuss DIY findings
- Subcommittee report outs

Winter/Spring 2026

- Review and discuss 2025 Annual Report
- Review and discuss DIY report

Subcommittee Spring/Summer Meeting Dates

| Subcommittee | 2025 meeting schedule |
|--------------|--|
| Data | Quarterly, next meeting TBD – Late Spring |
| CBI | 4th Monday of the Month 11am-12:30 March 24 th April 28 th June 23 rd July 28 th |
| CTTF | Quarterly, next meeting TBD |



Board Member Updates

- Are there any new initiatives the group should be aware of?
- Does your agency/org have any new policies or standard practices the group should know about?
- Are you hosting/attending any upcoming events relevant to this group?
- Anything else you wish to share with the group?

Next Meeting

TBD–Summer 2025



(All meetings are virtual; Zoom information is in each calendar invitation)

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