



FY2025 MASSACHUSETTS JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA BRIEFS

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

Black and Latino youth remained overrepresented at each process point in the juvenile justice system.

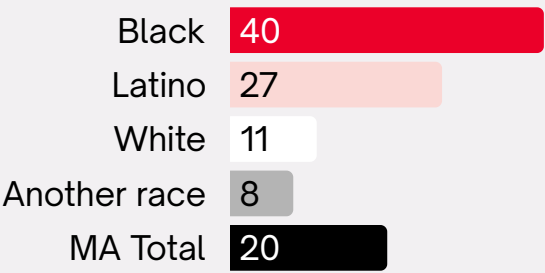


Racial and ethnic disparities were greatest at the “front door” of the juvenile justice system

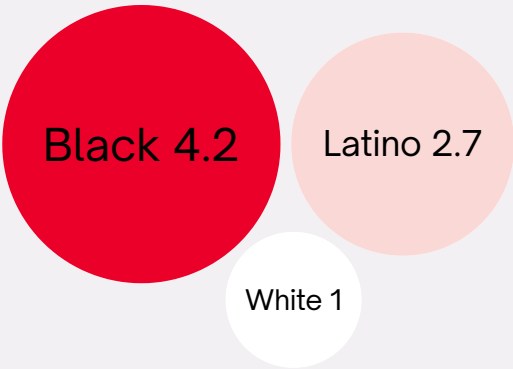


Black and Latino youth entered the JJ system at higher rates and were more likely to enter through arrests than white youth

Applications for complaint per 1,000 youth

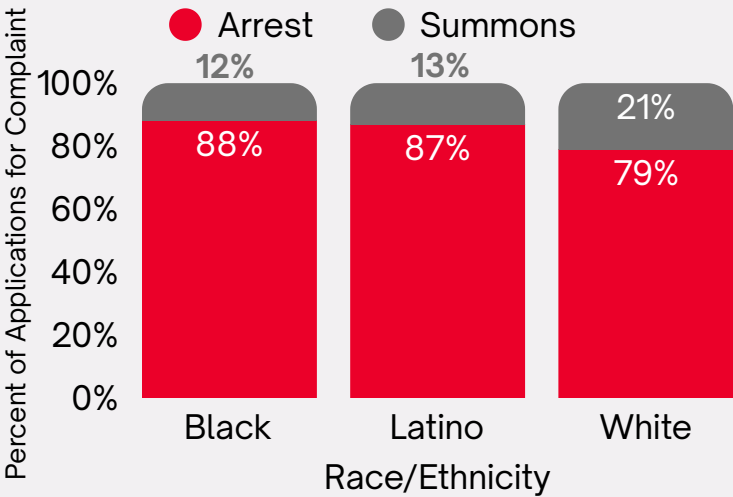


Comparative rate of arrests

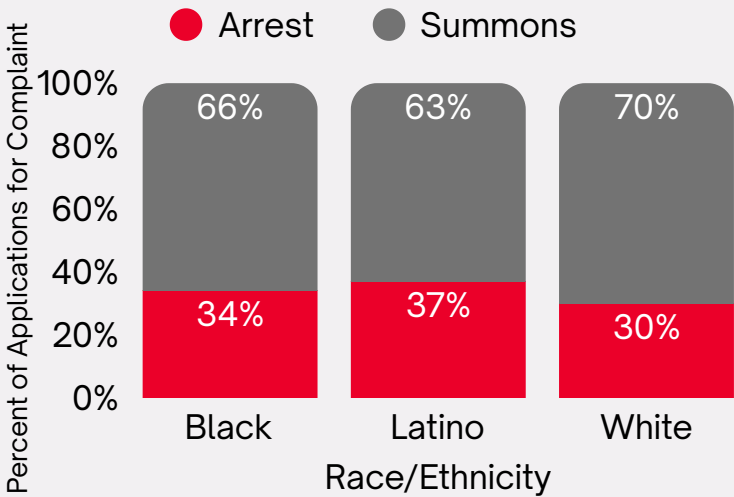


Racial and ethnic disparities persisted regardless of offense severity

Use of Arrest vs. Summons in Felony Cases by Race/Ethnicity

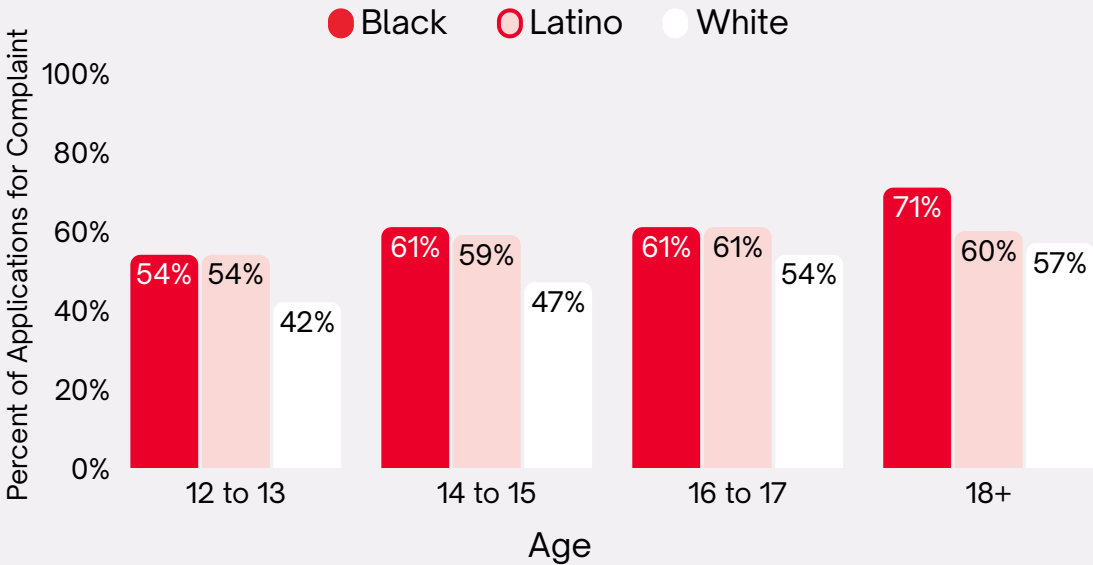


Use of Arrest vs. Summons in Misdemeanor Cases by Race/Ethnicity



Black and Latino youth were arrested at younger ages than their white peers

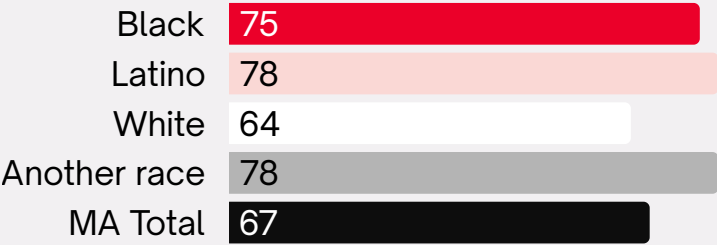
Arrests by Age and Race/Ethnicity



Youth of color experienced disproportionately high rates of delinquency filings

Disparities in the use of arrests (vs summons) drove disparities in delinquency filings for youth of color compared to white youth

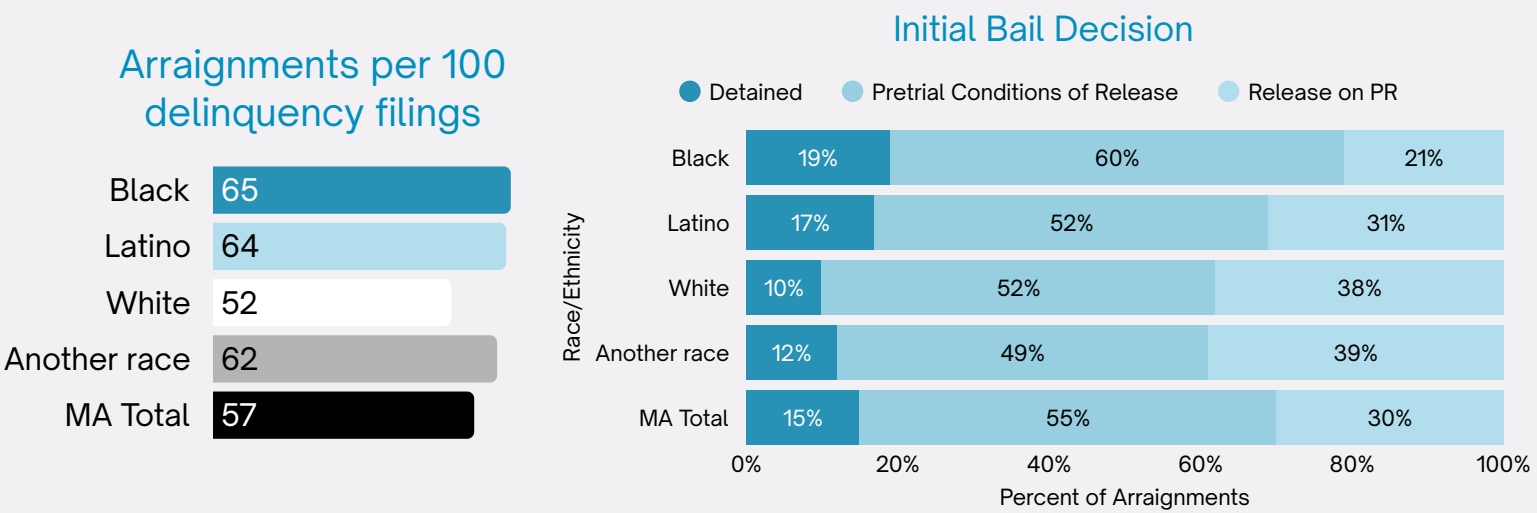
Delinquency filings per 100 applications for complaint



Black and Latino youth experienced more intensive justice system involvement at the pretrial phase



Black and Latino youth faced higher arraignment rates and more restrictive pretrial outcomes, including pretrial detention and conditions of release, than their white peers



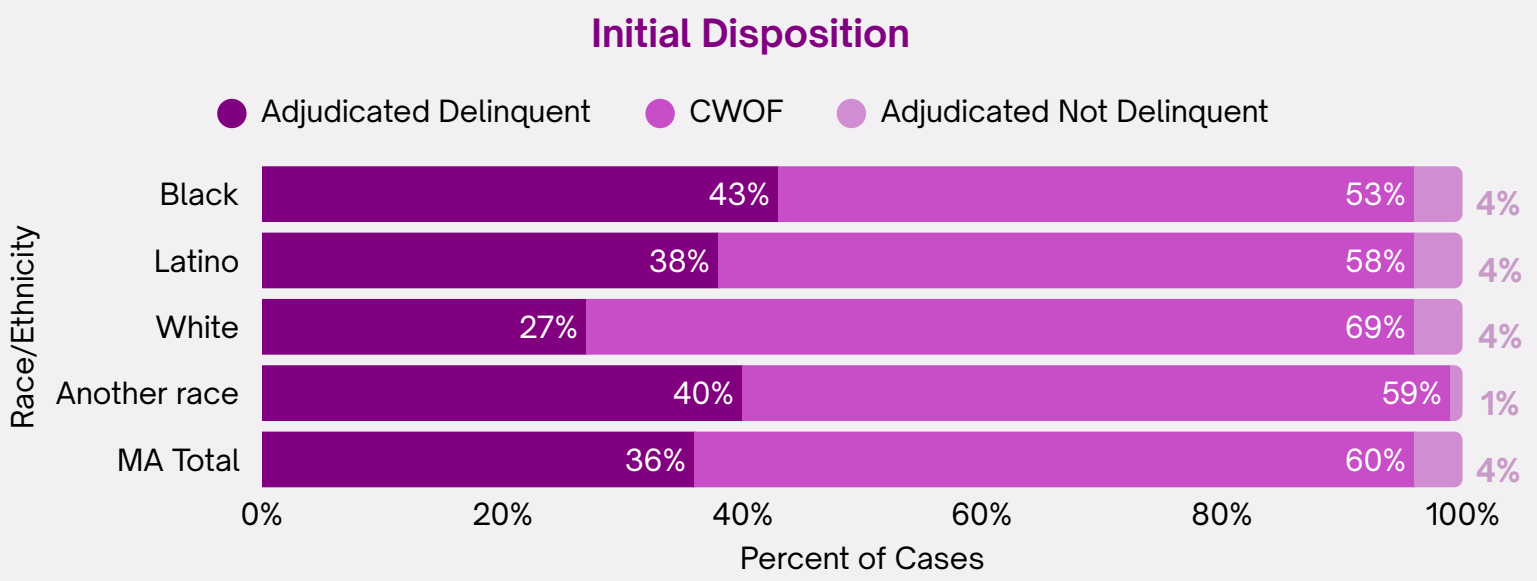
Black and Latino youth were more likely to be detained pretrial and be the subject of a 58A Hearing compared to white youth



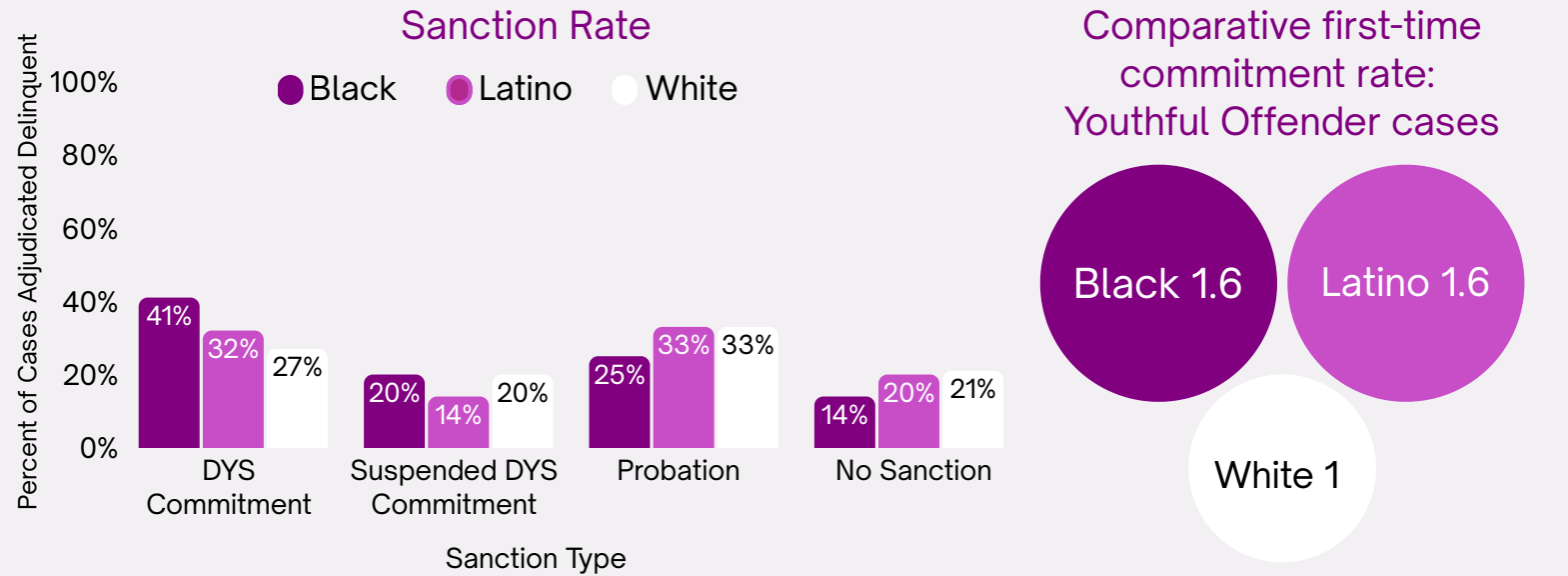
Black and Latino youth experienced deeper system involvement



Black and Latino youth were more likely to be adjudicated delinquent and less likely to have their case resolved via CWOFF than white youth

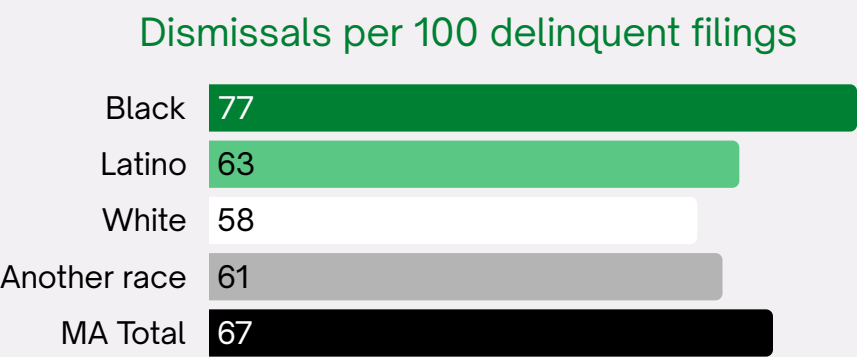


Black and Latino youth were more likely to be committed to DYS and more frequently committed as youthful offenders than white youth



Black and Latino youth had higher rates of case dismissals than white youth

Case Dismissals



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

Data Appendix

This brief is one in a three-part series from the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) that explores disparities in Massachusetts’ juvenile justice system, including those related to geography, race, and gender and sexual orientation. For more on trends in the juvenile justice system, check out the rest of our data brief series [here](#).

Process Points by Race/Ethnicity (FY25)					
Process Point	Total	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Another race
MA Youth (12-17) Population*	482,832	49,148	92,559	300,807	40,318
Applications for Complaint & Delinquency Filings					
Summons	4,470	787	993	1,714	145
Arrests	5,114	1,178	1,457	1,734	190
Overnight Arrest Admissions	643	252	277	94	9
Applications for Complaint	9,561	1,964	2,454	3,429	337
Delinquency Filings	6,437	1,468	1,908	2,182	263
Arraignments & Pretrial Proceedings					
Arraignment	3,653	948	1,215	1,124	163
Pretrial (COR and Dispo)	1,990	565	624	576	79
58A Hearings	355	101	156	67	20
Detained at Initial Arraignment	537	182	202	108	20
Pretrial Detention Admissions	881	331	367	152	12
Dispositions & Sanctions					
CWOF	1,184	254	395	420	60
Adjudicated Delinquent	707	205	2601	168	40
Adjudicated Not Delinquent	75	18	30	23	1
No Sanction	133	29	53	35	7
Probation	220	51	87	55	14
Probation (Administrative & Risk Need)	1,385	286	442	492	75
Suspended Commitment	128	41	37	33	6
Commitment	226	84	83	45	13
First-time Commitments	174	59	73	35	**
Case Dismissals					
Dismissals	4,294	1,132	1,209	1,270	60

*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%.

**Represents a number of youth smaller than 5 due to cell suppression. Differences in reporting practices, timing of data extraction, and privacy-related cell suppression may cause the sum of categories to differ slightly from the total counts reported.

Applications for Complaint by Summons vs Arrest and Race/Ethnicity*							
Race/ Ethnicity	AC Initated by	Felony	Misdemeanor	Age			
				12 to 13	14 to 15	16 to 17	18+
		Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
Black/African American	Arrest	825	352	150	430	579	20
	Summons	117	670	127	279	371	8
	Total AC	942	1,022	277	709	950	28
Hispanic/Latino	Arrest	956	499	163	462	801	30
	Summons	146	847	137	322	513	20
	Total AC	1,102	1,346	300	784	1,314	50
White	Arrest	1,125	608	176	460	1,055	43
	Summons	298	1,414	245	529	906	33
	Total AC	1,423	2,022	421	989	1,961	76

*Application for complaint data retrived 3/2026 from the Massachusetts Trial Court’s Website. Data in this table was used to calculate RRI. For more on RRI calculations, see the [JJPAD Board’s 2025 Annual Report](#)

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. FY25 data excludes expunged cases at each court point except Applications for Complaint and Delinquency Filings.
- Pretrial supervision/monitoring cases, and post adjudication probation case starts provided to the OCA by the Massachusetts Probation Service.
- Note: This data excludes expunged cases, which are not electronically tabulated.
Source: FY18-FY23 data retrieved from the JJPAD’s 2024 Annual Report; FY24-FY25 data retrieved on 1/2026 from the [Massachusetts Trial Court's Tableau Public page](#)