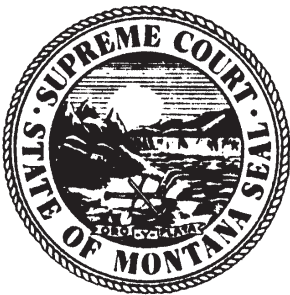


Montana Judicial Branch

Youth Court At-A-Glance

January 2007 through December 2007



Montana Supreme Court
Office of the Court Administrator
301 South Park Ave, STE 328
Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 841-2950



Montana Judicial Branch

Youth Court At-A-Glance

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I am very pleased to provide Montanans with information about the juvenile justice system which is such a critical part of the administration of justice in our great state. The Legislature's visionary Youth Court Act provides the framework in which we exercise our enormous responsibility to Montana's youth, who are—as we all know—our future. Each and every person involved in our Youth Courts is dedicated to the success of Montana's kids and, in recent years, we have instituted major statewide improvements to make our Youth Courts more consistent and uniform, while still providing the flexibility to do what is best for each youth. We certainly will continue our efforts.


The Youth Courts have many purposes. The primary goals are to hold youths accountable to victims and the community for the youths' misbehaviors, reduce the risk of juveniles re-offending through skill development, and increase public safety through a variety of appropriate management tools for dealing with youths.

Thank you for showing your interest in Montana's youth and their futures by taking time to learn more about our Youth Court system and the youths, families and communities it serves. The information contained in this brief Youth Court At-A-Glance will help you understand how the juvenile justice system works in Montana and, ultimately, will help us improve the system to meet our overall goal of preparing youths at risk to become productive adults.

Karla

Karla M. Gray
Chief Justice

Juvenile Justice Overview



JUVENILE JUSTICE

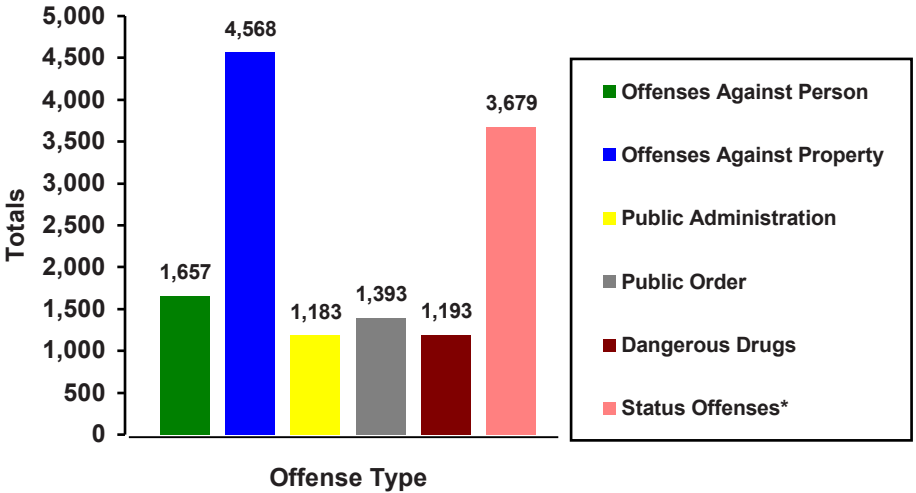
Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system through contact with law enforcement, although they may be referred to probation by other agencies and parents. Juvenile probation is an integral part of the Youth Court and is overseen by the Youth Court judge within each of the 22 Judicial Districts. Most referrals to the Youth Court's juvenile probation office are in the form of a ticket accompanied by a report from law enforcement. Juvenile probation officers may handle any referral except traffic and fish and game violations, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Justice, Municipal, City, and District Courts.

Youth referred to probation must appear in front of the juvenile probation officer with a parent or guardian to answer to the allegations against them. Most youth will never see the Youth Court judge and will work solely through the Youth Court juvenile probation officer to resolve the ticket in what is referred to as the informal process. If the referral is forwarded to the county attorney and a petition is filed on the alleged charges, the youth will appear before the Youth Court judge in what is referred to as the formal process. Approximately 20% of the youth referred to juvenile probation each year are handled formally.

REFERRALS TO MONTANA'S YOUTH COURTS

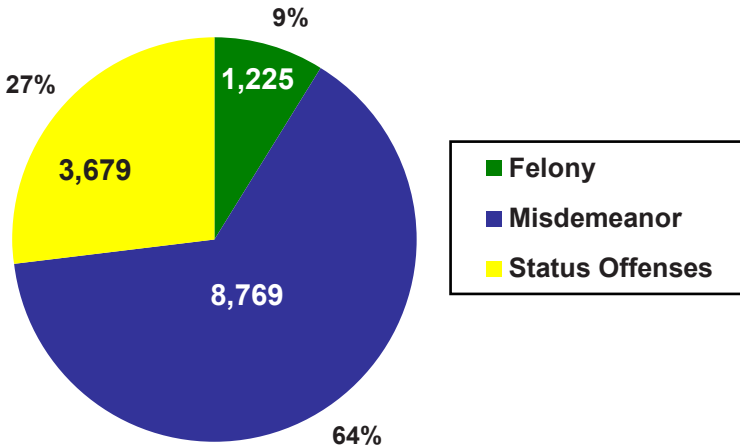
Youth Referred to Youth Court	6,676
Referrals (a youth may have multiple referrals)	10,593
Offenses (a referral may have multiple offenses)	13,673

OFFENSE CATEGORIES

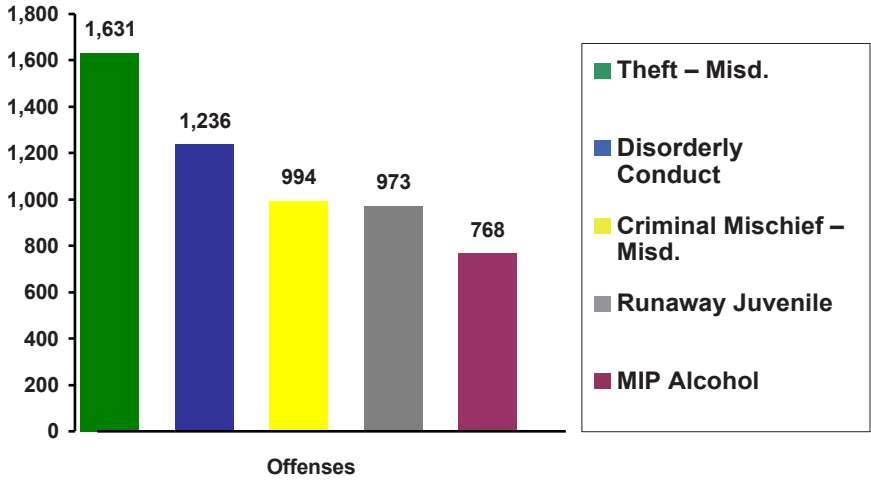


* These are matters that are offenses because of the youth's age and include such things as a minor in possession of alcohol, truancy, curfew or a run away violation.

OFFENSE CLASSIFICATIONS



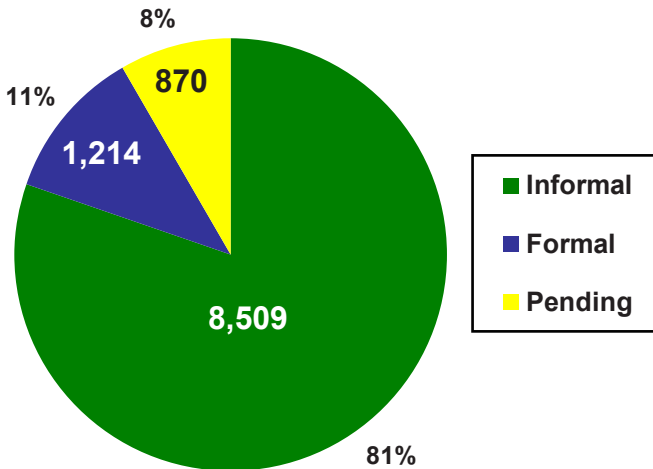
FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO JUVENILE PROBATION



Eight districts out of the 22 handle minor in possession tickets. In the other districts, courts of limited jurisdiction handle the offenses.

TYPE OF DISPOSITION USED (INFORMAL VS. FORMAL)

- Informal - Handled by juvenile probation officer
- Formal - Youth appears before Youth Court judge
- Pending - Awaiting action from the county attorney's office, requires further investigation by law enforcement, or a ticket has been issued and juvenile probation is waiting to see the youth and parent(s).

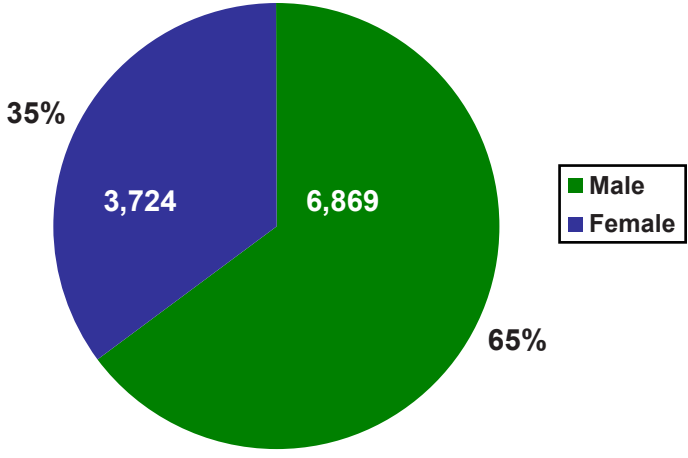


YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

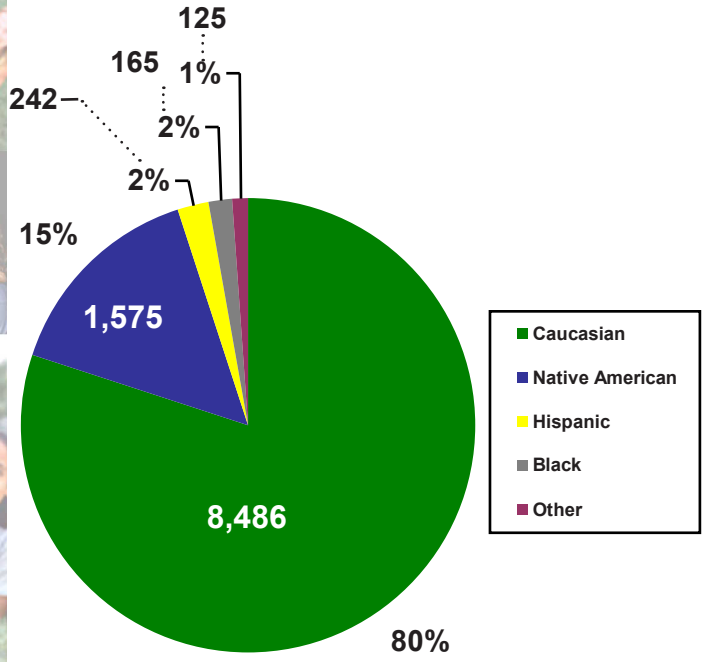


REFERRAL CHARACTERISTICS

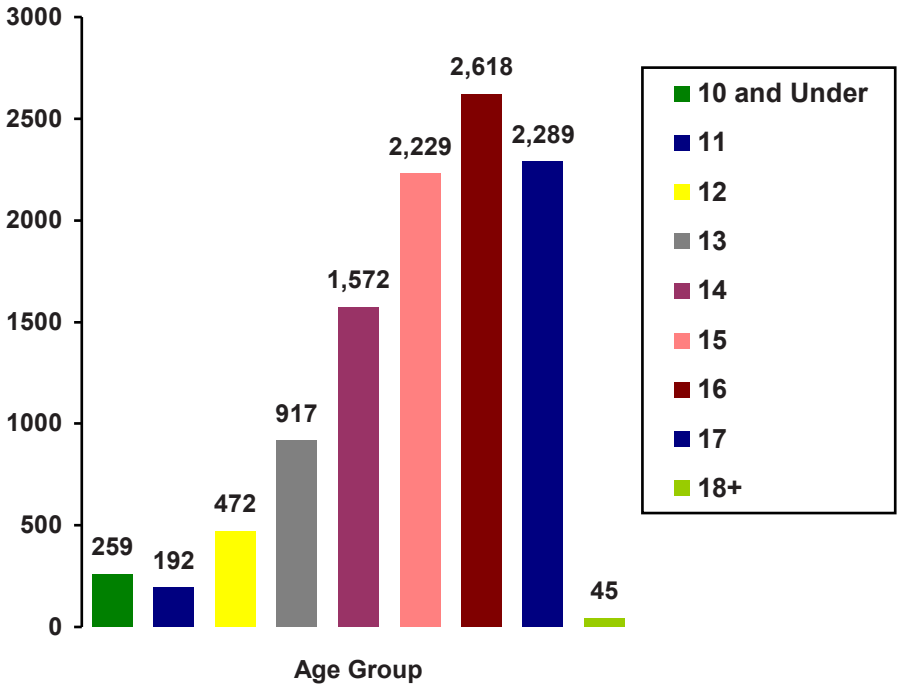
GENDER



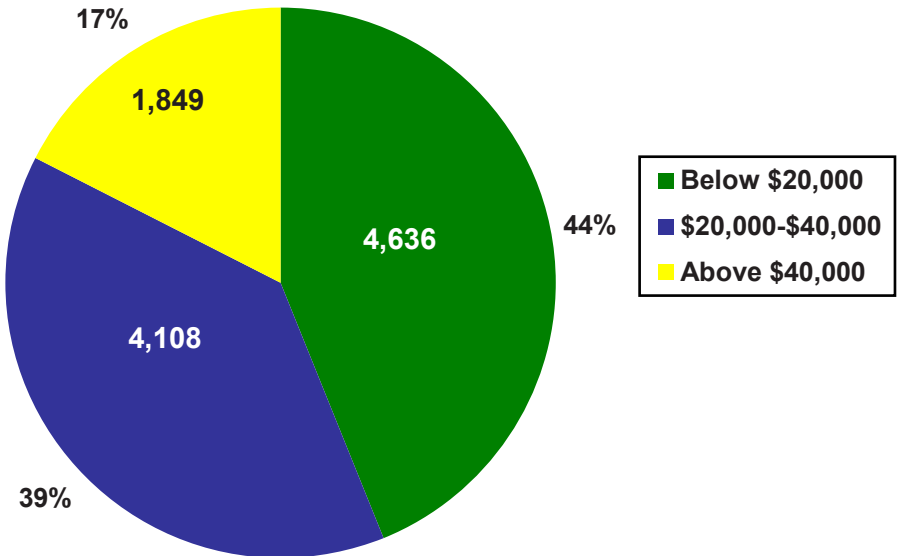
RACE



AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE



FAMILY'S HOUSEHOLD INCOME



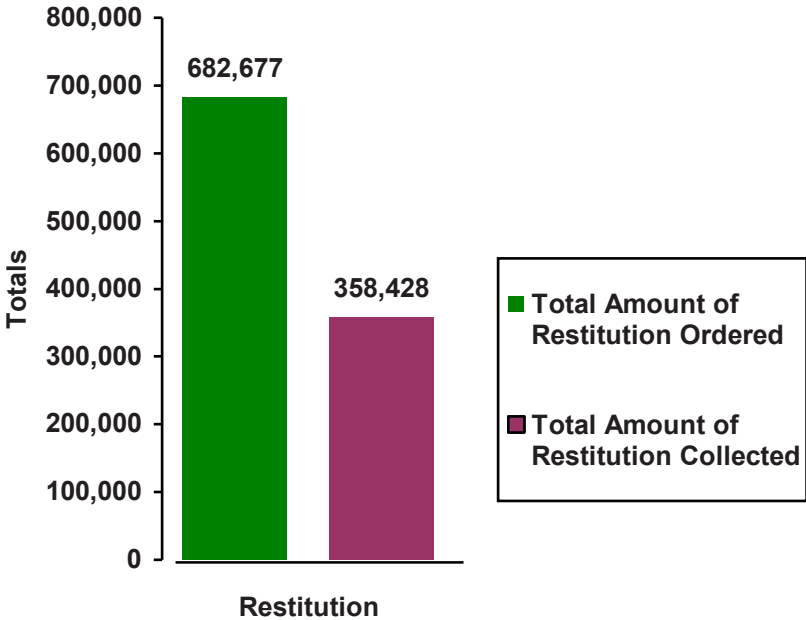
RESTORING JUSTICE TO VICTIMS AND HOLDING OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE

TIME SPENT ON SUPERVISION-CLOSED CASES

0-30 days	2,371
31-90 days	1,987
+90 days	3,152

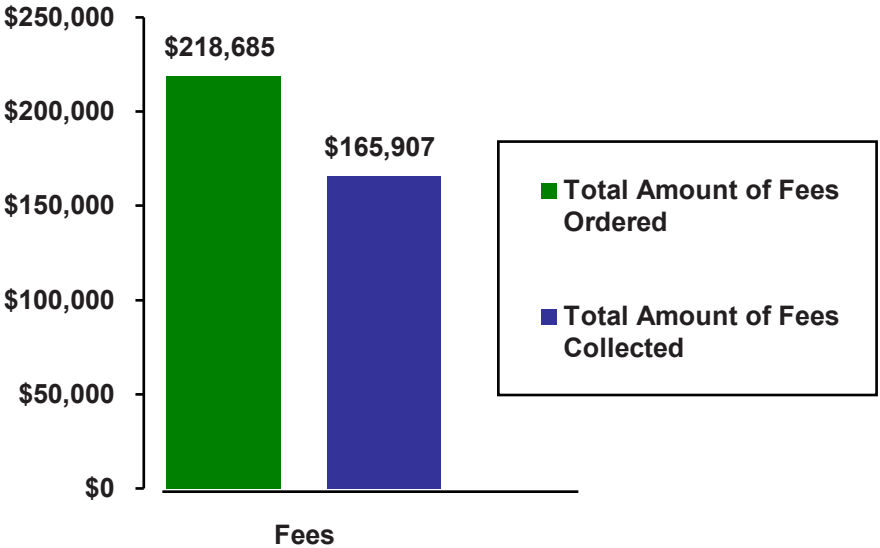
RESTITUTION

Number of Youth Ordered to Pay Restitution: 1,084



FEES

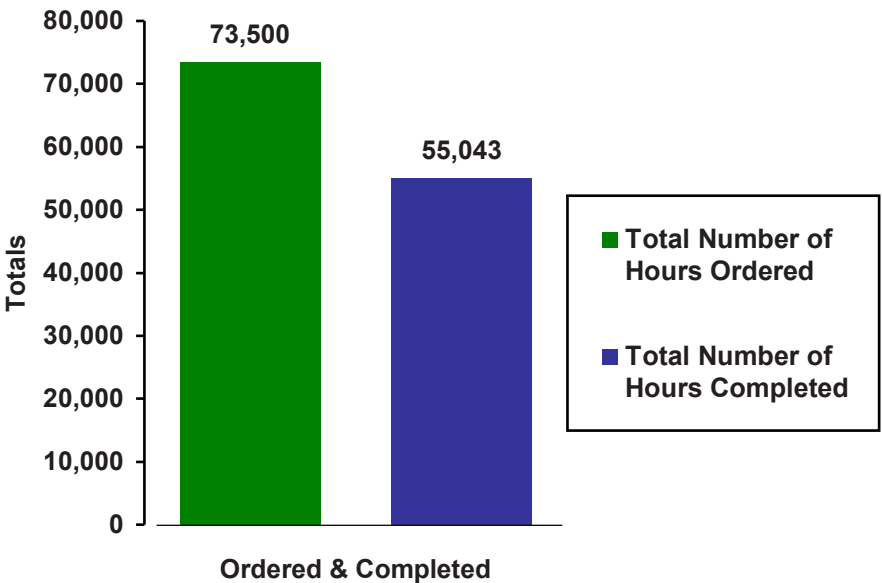
Number of Youth Ordered to Pay Fees: 2,895



Fees used to offset cost of drug testing, workers' compensation, and other services.

COMMUNITY WORK SERVICE HOURS

Total Number of Youth Ordered to Complete Community Service: 2,957



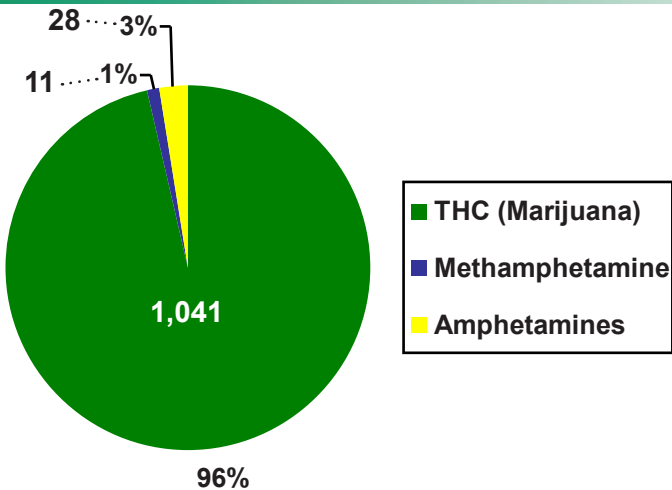
RESISTANCE TO DRUGS

Youth ordered to submit to drug testing are tested randomly, unless there is suspicion to believe the youth has recently been using drugs. Youth going through drug court may be required to test more often as required by the judge.

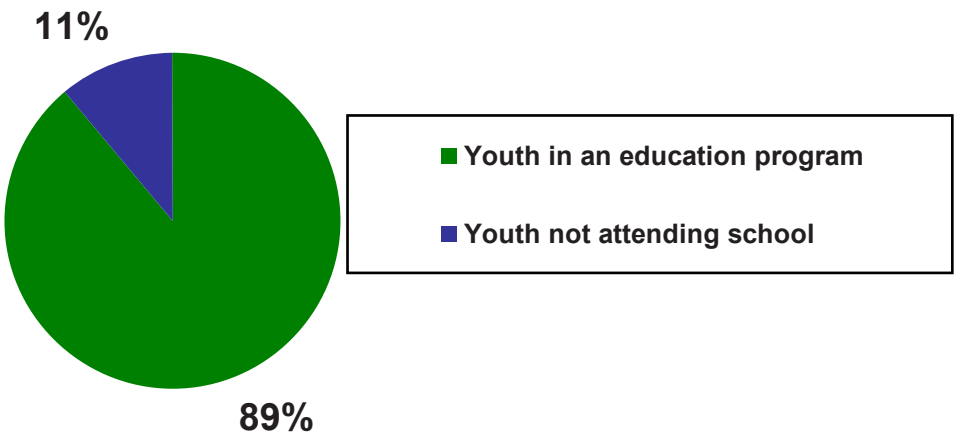
Total Number of Youth Drug Tested:	981
Total Number of Tests Administered:	3,820
Total Number of Youth Testing Positive:	449

A single youth may have tested positive multiple times.

TOP THREE DRUGS USED

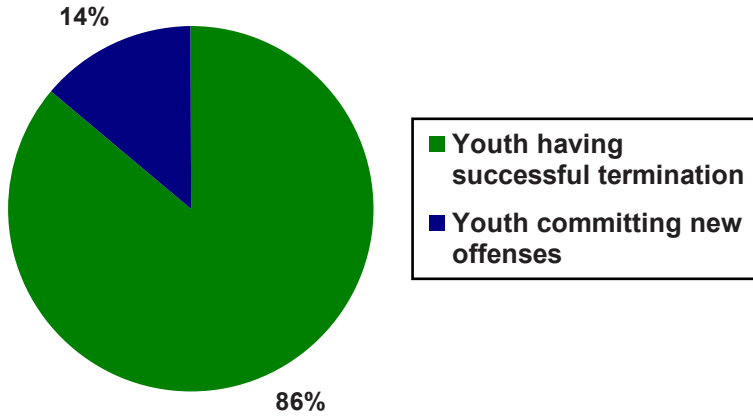


SCHOOL PARTICIPATION



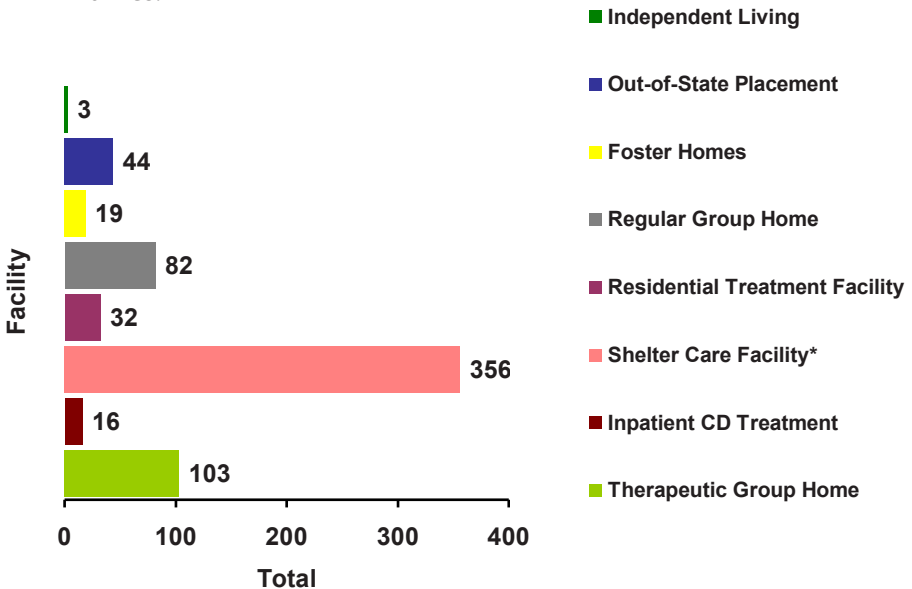
RECIDIVISM WHILE UNDER SUPERVISION

Recidivism is defined as a youth committing another offense while under supervision.



OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS

Out of 10,593 referrals to Youth Court, 612 resulted in out-of-home placements. Please note that a single youth may be placed multiple times.



*Shelter care, the most common placement, is a very short-term placement used when Youth Court is assessing the youth and family's situation.

DETENTION

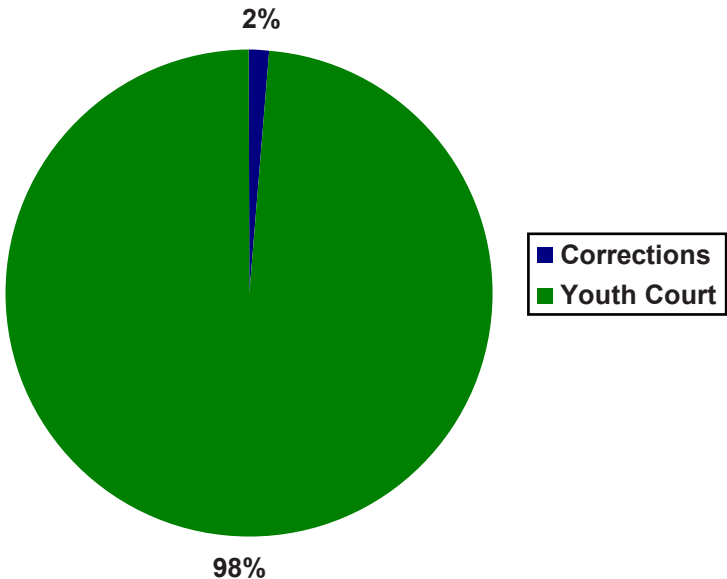
Number of Youth Placed in Detention at Time of Arrest: 1,384

Youth detention facilities, which are physically restrictive youth facilities designed to prevent a youth from leaving at will, are mostly funded and operated by counties. Local law enforcement officers make the decision to detain at the time of arrest.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS COMMITMENTS

Only a Youth Court judge may sentence a youth to the Department of Corrections. Less than 2% of all youth referred to juvenile probation are sentenced to the Department of Corrections.

Of the 6,676 youth referred to Youth Court, 98 were committed to the Department of Corrections for placement in a youth correctional facility.



YOUTH COURT CONTACTS BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

- #1 Counties – Lewis and Clark, Broadwater
District Court Judges – Thomas C. Honzel, Dorothy McCarter, Jeffrey M. Sherlock
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Sharon Tregidga
Contact Number – 447-8228
- #2 County – Silver Bow
District Court Judges – Kurt Krueger, Brad Newman
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Glen Granger
Contact Number – 497-6375
- #3 Counties – Deer Lodge, Powell, Granite
District Court Judge – Ray Dayton
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Marylyn Showlin
Contact Number – 563-4030
- #4 Counties – Missoula, Mineral
District Court Judges – Douglas Harkin, John W. Larson, Edward P. McLean, Dusty Deschamps
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Glen Welch
Contact Number – 258-4735
- #5 Counties – Beaverhead, Jefferson, Madison
District Court Judge – Loren Tucker
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Tom Ramirez
Contact Number – 683-3760
- #6 Counties – Park, Sweet Grass
District Court Judges – William Nels Swandal
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Sue Chvilicek
Contact Number – 222-4162
- #7 Counties – Dawson, Richland, McCone, Wibaux, Prairie
District Court Judges – Katherine Irigoien, Richard A. Simonton
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Steven Bailey
Contact Number – 377-4675
- #8 County – Cascade
District Court Judges – Julie Macek, Thomas M. McKittrick, Kenneth R. Neill, Dirk M. Sandefur
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Dennis Dronen
Contact Number – 454-6880
- #9 Counties – Glacier, Pondera, Teton, Toole
District Court Judge – Laurie McKinnon
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Tasha Stiner
Contact Number – 873-5063
- #10 Counties – Fergus, Judith Basin, Petroleum
District Court Judge – E. Wayne Phillips
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Mike Otto
Contact Number – 538-9242
- #11 County – Flathead
District Court Judges – Katherine R. Curtis, Ted O. Lympus, Stewart Stadler
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Patrick Warnecke
Contact Number – 758-5541
- #12 Counties – Hill, Chouteau, Liberty

District Court Judge – David Rice
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Kevin Buerkle
Contact Number – 265-5481

- #13 County – Yellowstone
District Court Judges – Ingrid Gustafson, G. Todd Baugh, Russell C. Fagg, Gregory R. Todd,
Susan P. Watters
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Dave Ward
Contact Number – 256-2838
- #14 Counties – Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Wheatland
District Court Judge – Randal I. Spaulding
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Sally Palmer
Contact Number – 323-1714
- #15 Counties – Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels
District Court Judge – David Cybulski
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Butch Olsen
Contact Number – 653-6263
- #16 Counties – Carter, Custer, Fallon, Garfield, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure
District Court Judges – Joe L. Hegel, Gary L. Day
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Matt Phillips
Contact Number – 874-3418
- #17 Counties – Blaine, Phillips, Valley
District Court Judge – John C. McKeon
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Clark Kelly
Contact Number – 654-2087
- #18 County – Gallatin
District Court Judges – Michael Salvagni, Holly Brown, John Brown
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Gwen Massey
Contact Number – 582-2180
- #19 County – Lincoln
District Court Judge – Michael C. Prezeau
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Kindra Hageness
Contact Number – 293-7781
- #20 Counties – Lake, Sanders
District Court Judges – C.B. McNeil, Deborah Kim Christopher
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Barb Monaco
Contact Number – 883-7264
- #21 County – Ravalli
District Court Judges – Jeffrey H. Langton, James A. Haynes
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Clint Arneson
Contact Number – 375-6805
- #22 Counties – Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater
District Court Judge – Blair Jones
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Jack Lane
Contact Number – 665-9815

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