Youth Development Oregon

Local Opportunities for Probation Transformation

Juvenile Justice Summit

November 5, 2026

Anya Sekino
Associate Director, Youth Development Oregon

Jeff Justesen
Wasco County Commissioner

Background

Youth Development Council

The **Youth Development Council (YDC)** is a state advisory board with rulemaking and grantmaking authority and responsibility for strategic direction and coordination of youth development programs. The YDC is also the designated State Advisory Group (SAG) responsible for oversight of federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) compliance monitoring and Title II funding.

Youth Development Division

The **Youth Development Division (YDD)** is Oregon's youth development agency, housed within the Oregon Department of Education. YDD administers grant programs and collaborates with state agencies and communities to support youth educational and career success and prevent youth crime and violence.

Youth Development Oregon

Youth Development Oregon refers to the collective work of the Division and Council. Key agency responsibilities like grantmaking processes and JJDPA compliance monitoring are shared efforts of the YDD and YDC.

Vision & Mission

Youth Development Oregon

VISION

All of Oregon's youth have the opportunity to thrive and achieve their full potential.

MISSION

Youth Development Oregon aligns systems and invests in communities to ensure equitable and effective services for youth ages 6 through 24. Throughout Oregon and Tribal Nations, we support educational and career success, disrupt youth crime and violence, and affirm youth strengths and safety.









Youth Served

Youth Development Oregon

By statute, youth are:

- Ages 6-24
- Facing barriers to and experiencing disparities in educational success
- Justice involved
- Foster care involved (and transitioning out of system)
- Experiencing homelessness and poverty
- With disabilities and unique needs
- Disconnected from education and employment, including out of school without diploma/GED (Reengagement Youth)





Juvenile Justice Overview – Roles and Statutes

Youth Development Oregon

YDC and its Juvenile Justice Committee

- System representation: county juvenile/youth services departments, Tribal education, courts, prevention and human services departments; Oregon Department of Education; Oregon Youth Authority; and Oregon Judicial Department
- Develop and approve the formula allocation of funds (and minimum grant), and establish criteria and review and approve local crime prevention plans (ORS 417.855)
- Reviews and approve 30-day extended detention programs (ORS 419.453)
- Develop and approve juvenile detention guidelines (ORS 169.090)

YDD

- Administer state and federal funds; collaborate and coordinate with Counties and Tribal Nations; ensure State's compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Juvenile Crime Prevention Overview

Youth Development Oregon

JCP Funding and Planning

- Funding is distributed by formula to all counties and Tribes based on youth population, including minimum grants for certain areas.
- JCP funds are focused on preventing youth at imminent risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system from engaging in delinquency and/or continuing to offend.
- JCP funds support improved resilience and protective factors of youth and families.
- JCP is evaluated and data-driven.
- Counties use a common application process and align JCP funding and Basic Services and Diversion funding from the Oregon Youth Authority to support youth.
- JCP prevention plans are developed in collaboration with community partners and approved by local public safety coordinating councils/governing authorities.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Overview

Youth Development Oregon

All **36 Counties and 9 Tribal Nations** in Oregon create Juvenile Crime Prevention Plans and receive funding to support JCP programming.

JCP programs serve **youth ages 8-17**. Participants come via referrals and are assessed for risk and protective factors in six different domains and provided appropriate services.

JCP Programs served 2,713 youth in 2023-2025

Juvenile Crime Prevention Overview

Youth Development Oregon

JCP Programs

- Use a **validated assessment tool** (JCP Assessment)
- Have **consistent data gathering, expert evaluation** and **case planning**
- **Collaborate with educational programs/partners** to improve educational outcomes
- **Address racial inequalities in the juvenile justice** by collecting data and developing strategies that address and reduce disparities.
- Use the **Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS)** for youth with criminal referrals and **YDO Data Manager** for youth served by community-based programs.
- **Invest in youth at risk of imminent juvenile justice involvement**: this yields fewer victims, keeps youth out of the system, and improves educational outcomes
- Leverages local services and adds capacity to meaningfully treat and **support youth in their community**

Juvenile Crime Prevention Outcomes

Youth Development Oregon

Statewide data are evaluated each biennium to examine change in risk and protective factors and impact on juvenile crime among those served by the JCP program.

Data from 2026 evaluation of 2023-2025 Juvenile Crime Prevention program evaluation by NPC Research.

JCP participants 12 months after program:

Youth with no prior criminal referrals:

- 92% continued to avoid criminal referrals
- 97% avoided detention

Youth with prior criminal referrals

- 69% had no new criminal referrals
- 78% avoided detention

Juvenile Justice Overview – Federal Compliance

Youth Development Oregon

The Youth Development Council fulfills the responsibilities of a State Advisory Group established by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) of 1974, recently reauthorized in 2018:

- Participates in the development of the State Plan for federal Title II formula grants
- Ensures compliance with the 4 Core Requirements of the JJDP Act:
  - **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)** - Seeks to ensure that youth who have not committed a **criminal** offense are not held in secure juvenile facilities or in secure adult facilities for any length of time.
  - **Sight and sound separation** - When juveniles are placed in an adult jail or lock-up, sight and sound contact with adults is prohibited under the JJDPA.
  - **Jail removal** - Juveniles may not be detained for more than 6 hours.
  - Address and reduce **Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED)** in the juvenile justice system
- Engages youth/youth voice currently and formerly involved with the juvenile justice system

Coalition for Juvenile Justice and Annie E. Casey Foundation

Youth Development Oregon

- In June 2023, Oregon applied and was selected to participate in the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's "The State Advisory Group's Role in Promoting Probation Transformation" Training
- The probation transformation work is guided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation's vision for probation reform and aims to help states:

1. Reduce probation caseloads by diverting a greater share of cases from the juvenile court system. This includes formal court processing and any form of probation supervision; and
2. Refashion probation into a more strategic and effective intervention for the much smaller population of youth who will remain on supervision caseloads.

Probation Reform: A Toolkit for State Advisory Groups

Youth Development Oregon

- State Advisory Groups are uniquely positioned within their states to help inform, influence, and support policymakers and practitioners as they seek to transform the use of probation.
- The three-year plan is an important tool in the SAG's toolbox, particularly when it comes to implementing probation transformation. The document serves as a key planning tool for the SAG and the
- Designated State Agency (DSA). It serves as a guidepost for the state's Title II work and sets out programmatic and funding priorities for the years ahead.

https://www.aecf.org/resources/probation-reform-a-tool-kit-for-juvenile-justice-state-advisory-groups

Three Year State Plan Goals and Funding Priorities and FY2024 RFA

Youth Development Oregon

Goal 1: Transforming Juvenile Probation

Objective: Evaluate and standardize justice system, courts, and probation practices while addressing disparities.

Program Area: **Graduated and Appropriate Sanctions p**rograms to encourage juvenile services to develop and implement a continuum of post-adjudication programs which include expanded use of probation, mediation, restitution, community service, treatment, intensive supervision, or short-term non-secure residential programs.

Objective: Reduce use of probation and increase use of diversion opportunities for youth referred to juvenile departments and courts.

Program Area: **Community-Based Programs and Services** community-based programs and services to work with juveniles referred to juvenile departments to divert them from probation and further penetration into the justice system by working in collaboration with youth and their families to strengthen the families and reduce the risk of recidivism.

Goal 2: Supporting Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Efforts

2) Objective: Reduce the numbers of referrals to the juvenile justice system by supporting local community and developmentally appropriate delinquency prevention services.

Program Area: **Delinquency Prevention:** Comprehensive juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs that meet needs of youth through collaboration of the many local system partners before which a youth may appear.

Thank You

QUESTIONS?

For more information please contact

Anya Sekino
anya.sekino@ode.oregon.gov

Jeff Justesen
"Jeff Justesen" <jeffj@wascocountyor.gov>



Youth Services

Wasco County Youth Services

Our Story

- Who we are
- Where we've been
- Where we are
- Where we are going

Wasco County Department of Youth Services

- Supporting youth and families across Wasco County.
- Building accountability into public safety and grounding work in the developmental approach
- Focusing on data and research to ensure efficient and effective interventions.

Divisions of Wasco County Youth Services

- YouthThink – Wasco County's commitment to prevention and promotion initiatives across schools, community, and partner agencies.
- Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) – An assessment center for youth and families referred through partner agencies, and self-referral.
- Juvenile Department – Full array of services for supervision, intervention through the Juvenile Court Counselors in partnership with Courts.

History

- Long lists of probation and Formal Accountability Agreement rules
- Consequence based (i.e. community service work, fines, restitution, etc.)
- Frequent use of detention

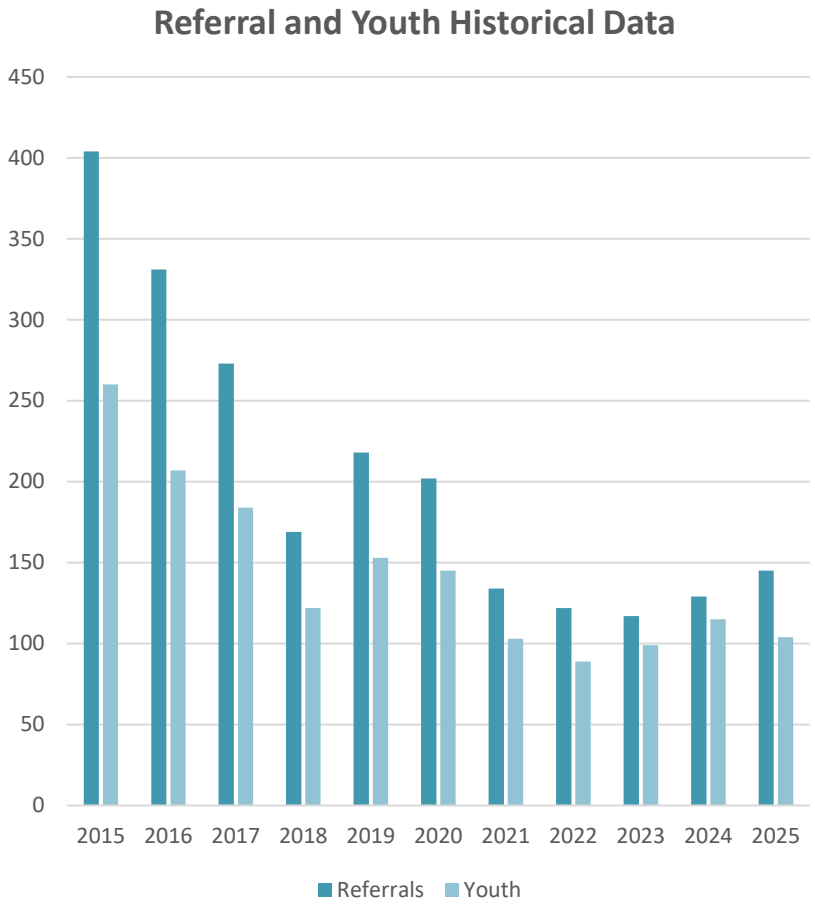
Change

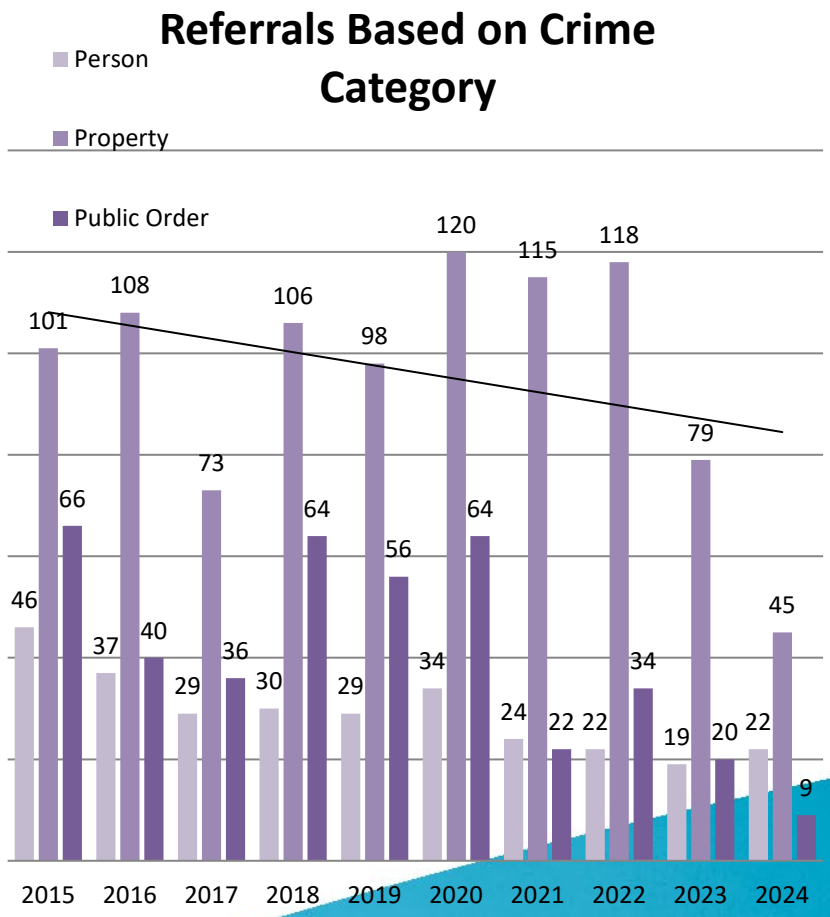
- 2005 work with Casey Foundation on JDAI
- Examined detention
- 2009 ALN starts
- Work with different jurisdictions around the country
- Access to resources

Data points

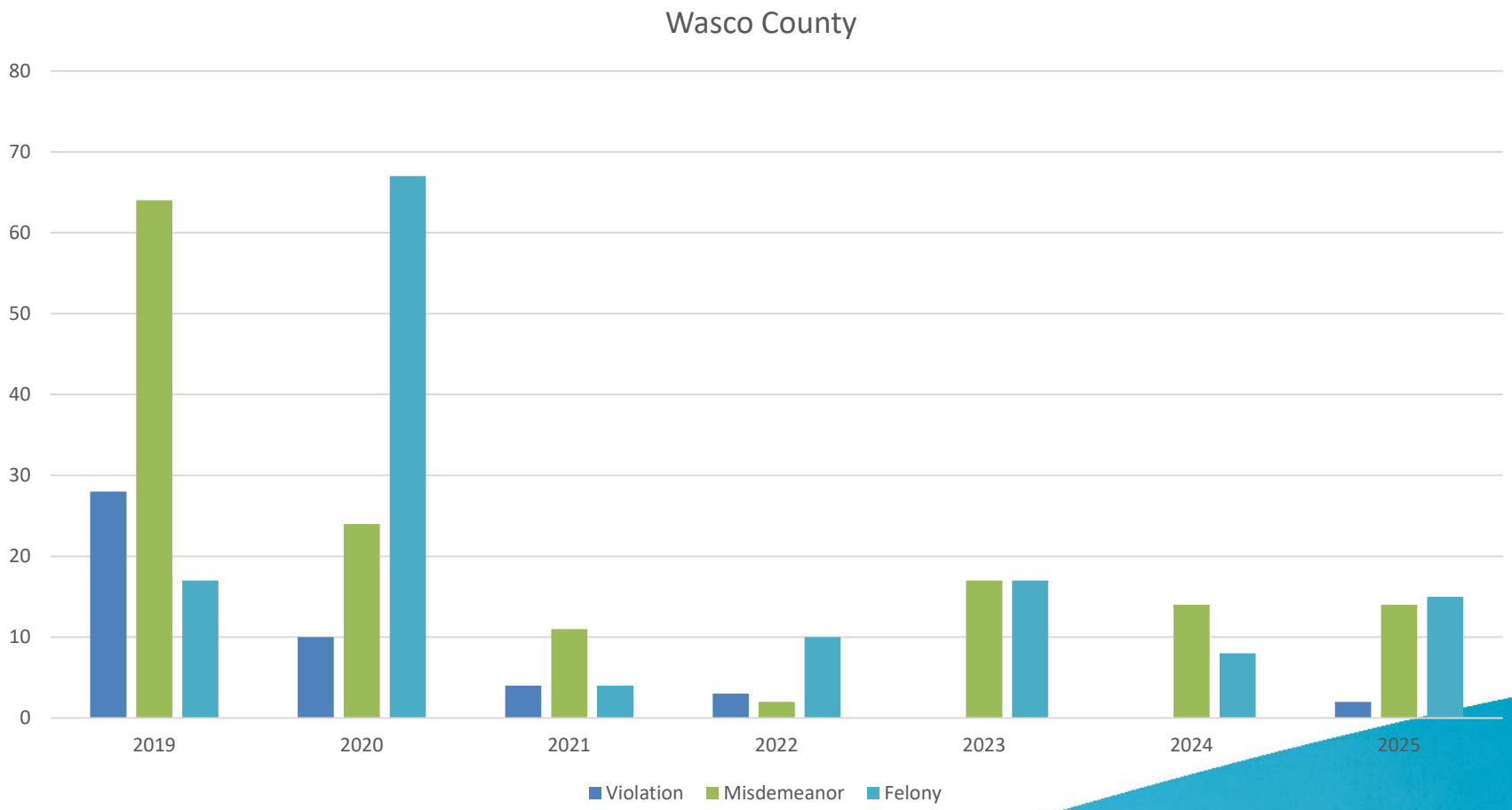
- Referrals
- Detention admissions
- Petitions filed
- Disposition
  - Formal Accountability Agreements
  - Diversion
  - Probation
- Violations

Leading With Data



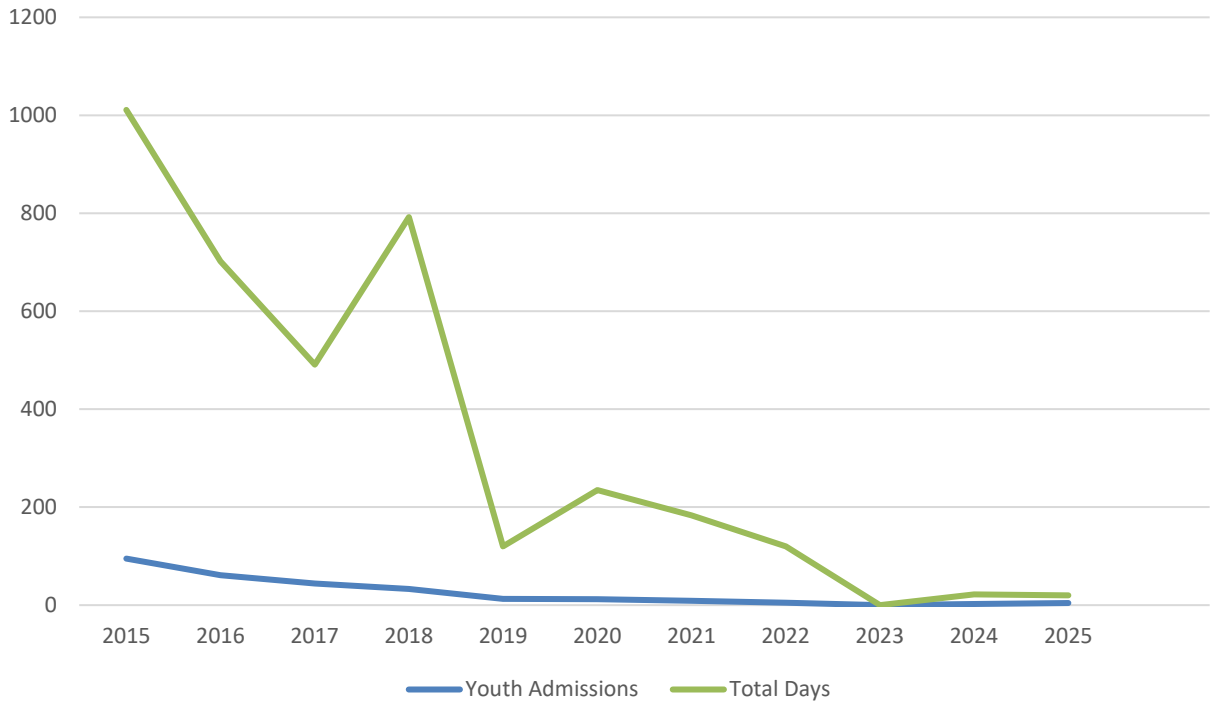


Allegations filed with Court



NORCOR Detention Placement Analysis

10 year data review – Look back includes a full year before the start of the pandemic and post pandemic.



Recidivism

Wasco County	2022	2023	2024
12 Month	18.4%	17.1%	11.4%
36 Month	25.5%		
Statewide			
12 Month	26.7%	27.8%	26.5%
36 Month	36.9%		

How did probation transformation being in Wasco County?

- In 2023 Wasco County had the opportunity to join Youth Development Oregon at a Probation Reform Summit through Coalition of Juvenile Justice and Annie E. Casey with five other State Advisory Groups.
- Using Wasco County's Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) and the Juvenile Court Improvement Project (JCIP) as models, the local Juvenile Delinquency Improvement Project (JDIP) was created.

Description – Wasco County's Leadership Team for Delinquency Work

- Wasco County Youth Services
- Wasco County Commissioners
- Wasco County Sheriff's Office
- Columbia Gorge Defenders
- YouthThink
- The Dalles Police Department
- 7th Judicial District – Judge John Wolf & Judge Marion Weatherford
- Families of youth involved
- Multi-Agency Resource Center
- Wasco County District Attorney's Office

The Team meets every other month – opposite of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council meetings.

Local JDIP influence in Wasco County

- Guidance in the creation of the Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC)
- The MARC is a single point of contact for community agencies, youth and families where staff can conduct comprehensive assessments in a trauma informed environment

Purpose of the MARC

- Reduce the number of youth who enter the juvenile justice and child welfare systems
- Reduce reliance on secure detention, shelter care and crisis placements
- Assist youth and families in navigating available resources

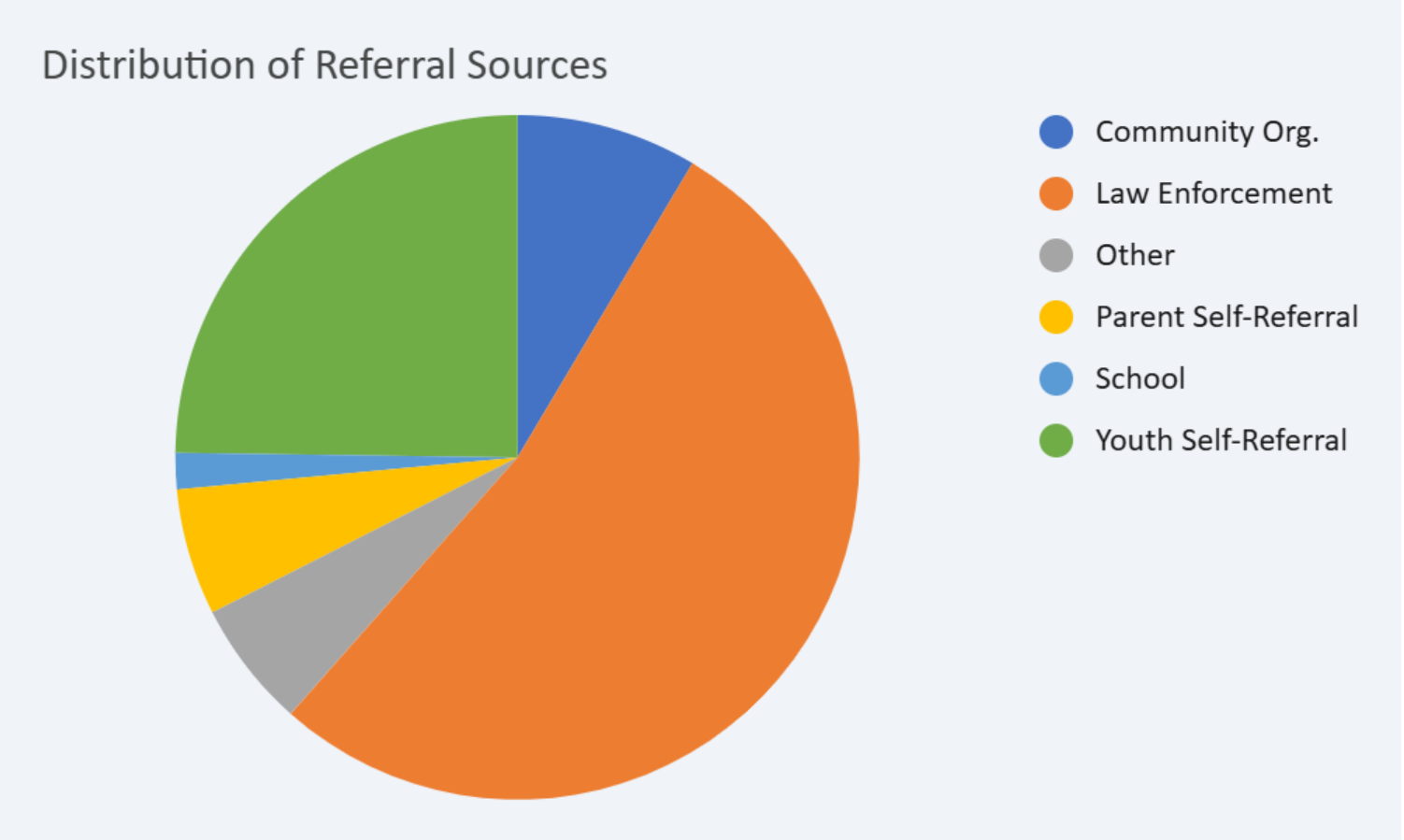
127 Youth Have been Referred Since Oct 2024



Family Navigators use trauma informed motivational interviewing to meet youth and families where they are at. With crisis stabilization and a reduction in foster placements/youth detentions as our primary focus, we walk alongside families to explore solutions.

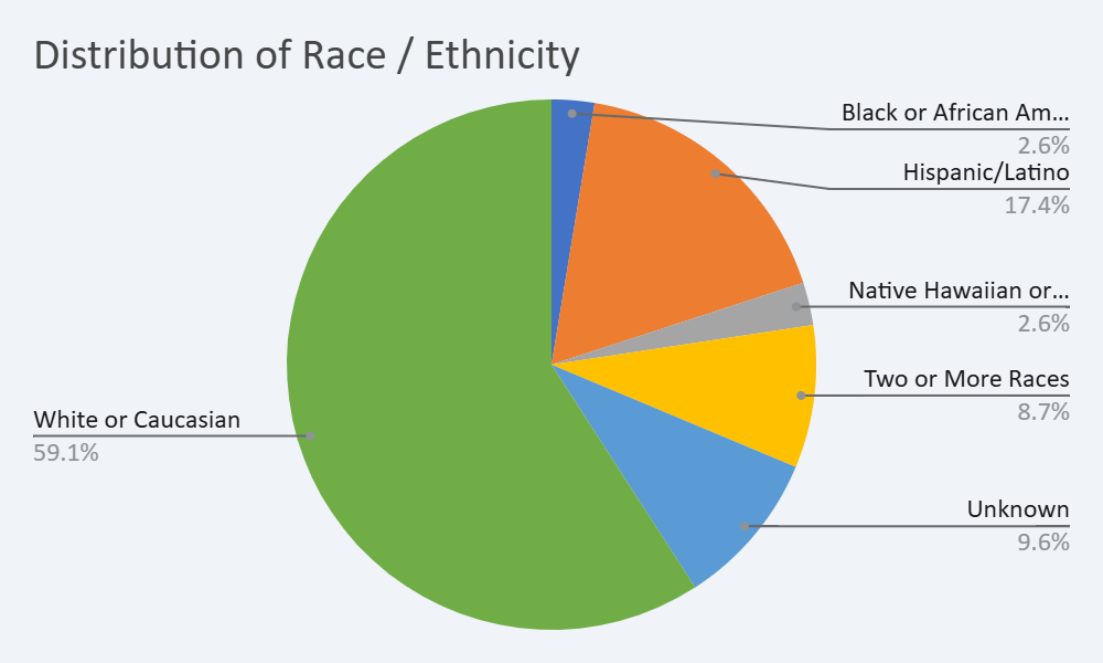
During Intake all youth are screened using the Oregon JCP risk assessment and sex trafficking vulnerability screening. In addition Family Navigators are trained and utilize screenings for substance use, risk for self harm, and a family driven needs. The initial intake plus additional one on one sessions are used to create Individual Service Plans (ISP) that help the Navigator and Family create a youth focused stability.

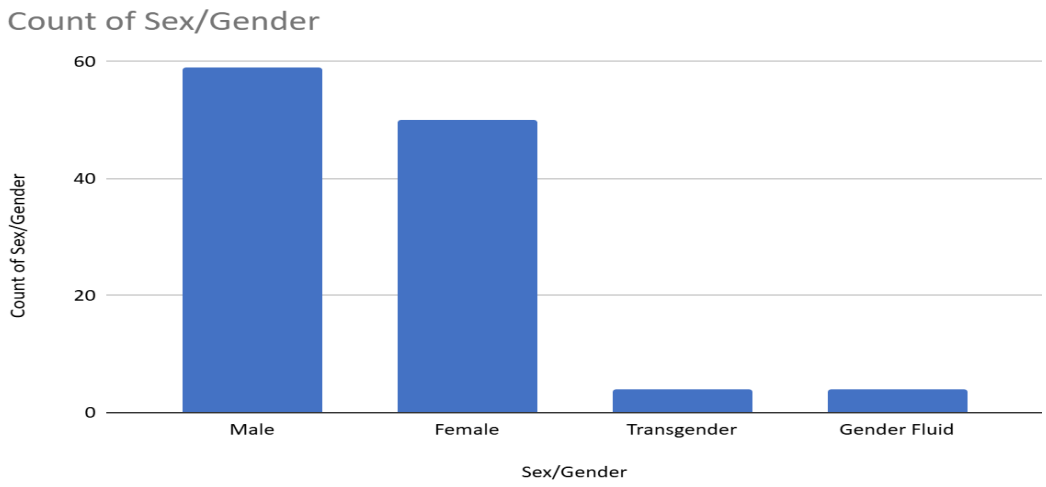
Referral Type Distribution



*Data reflects youth served up to Sept 1. 2026

Youth Demographics





*Data reflects youth served up to Sept 1. 2026

Community Supports for Youth

- Y.E.S.- (Youth Empowerment Shelter). Resource for youth who are at-risk of entering the juvenile justice system due to family conflict, housing instability, or running away.

- NORCOR juvenile detention – Secure placement for youth who are high risk to public safety or have a history of failing to appear for court appearances. Also legal placement for youth who are out-of-state runaways.

- Mid-Columbia Center for Living mobile crisis team. Responding to youth reported "out of control" or high risk for self-harm. Historically referrals to juvenile justice.

- Six Rivers Mediation – Restorative justice partnership with Wasco County District Attorney's Office to refer youth away from juvenile justice into a diversion program.

Next project for the JDIP: Probation Transformation

- Partnering with YDO and the Casey Foundation, creating a plan to examine probation practices in Wasco County.
- Looking at issues such as redundancies and flexibility
- Creating a probation system that will keep communities safe while giving youth tools to be successful

Next Project (con't)

- Looking at research from CJJ, NCJFC, AECF and others to guide the process
- Utilize relationships with national experts for advice, guidance and support

Wrap up

- Questions???
- Thoughts
- Suggestions
- Advice