

Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice

2024 Biennial Report to the Governor & State Legislature Summary

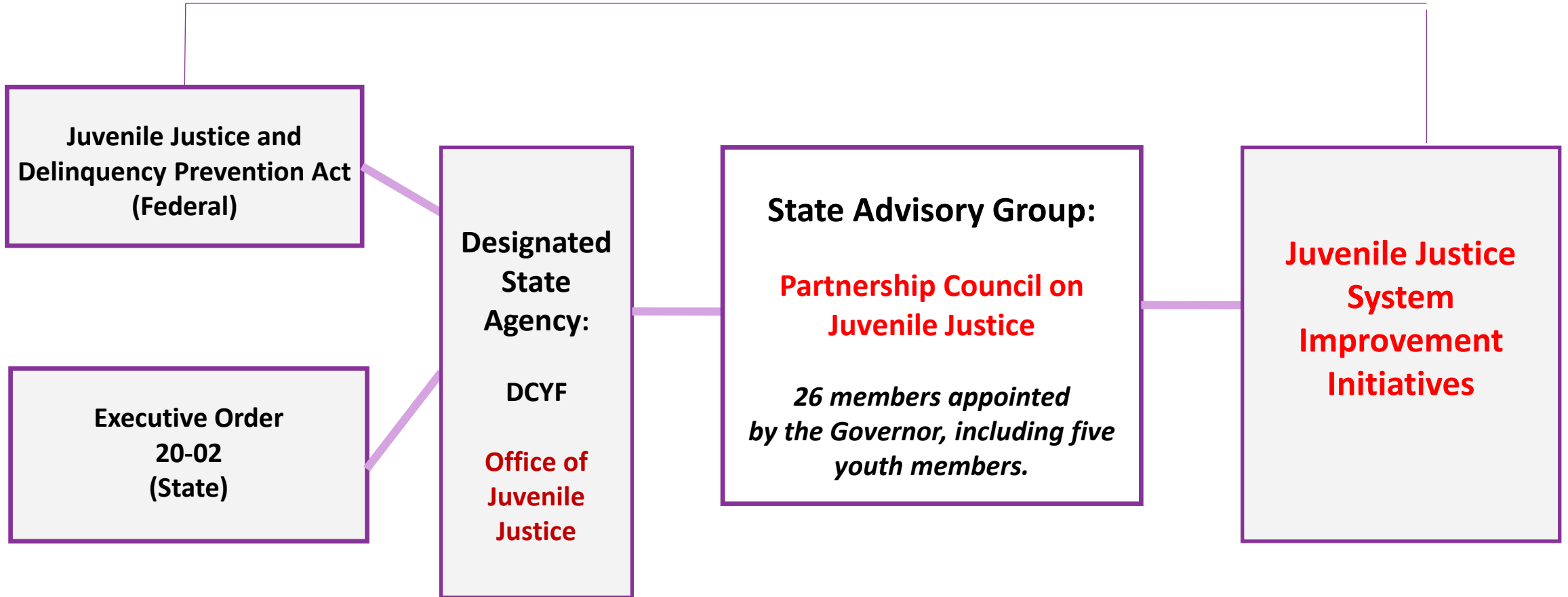
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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

State Advisory Group

WA Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice



The Office of Juvenile Justice serves as a resource on juvenile justice system improvement initiatives and innovations on reducing the impact of racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Supporting and staffing the Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice (PCJJ) and its committees.

Monitoring and reporting on the state's compliance with the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act).

Administering the federal Title II Formula Grant and other funding resources to support and incentivize system improvement.

Supporting the implementation of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) in partnership with local county courts.

Supporting the PCJJ in conducting policy studies and producing reports & recommendations as assigned by the state legislature.



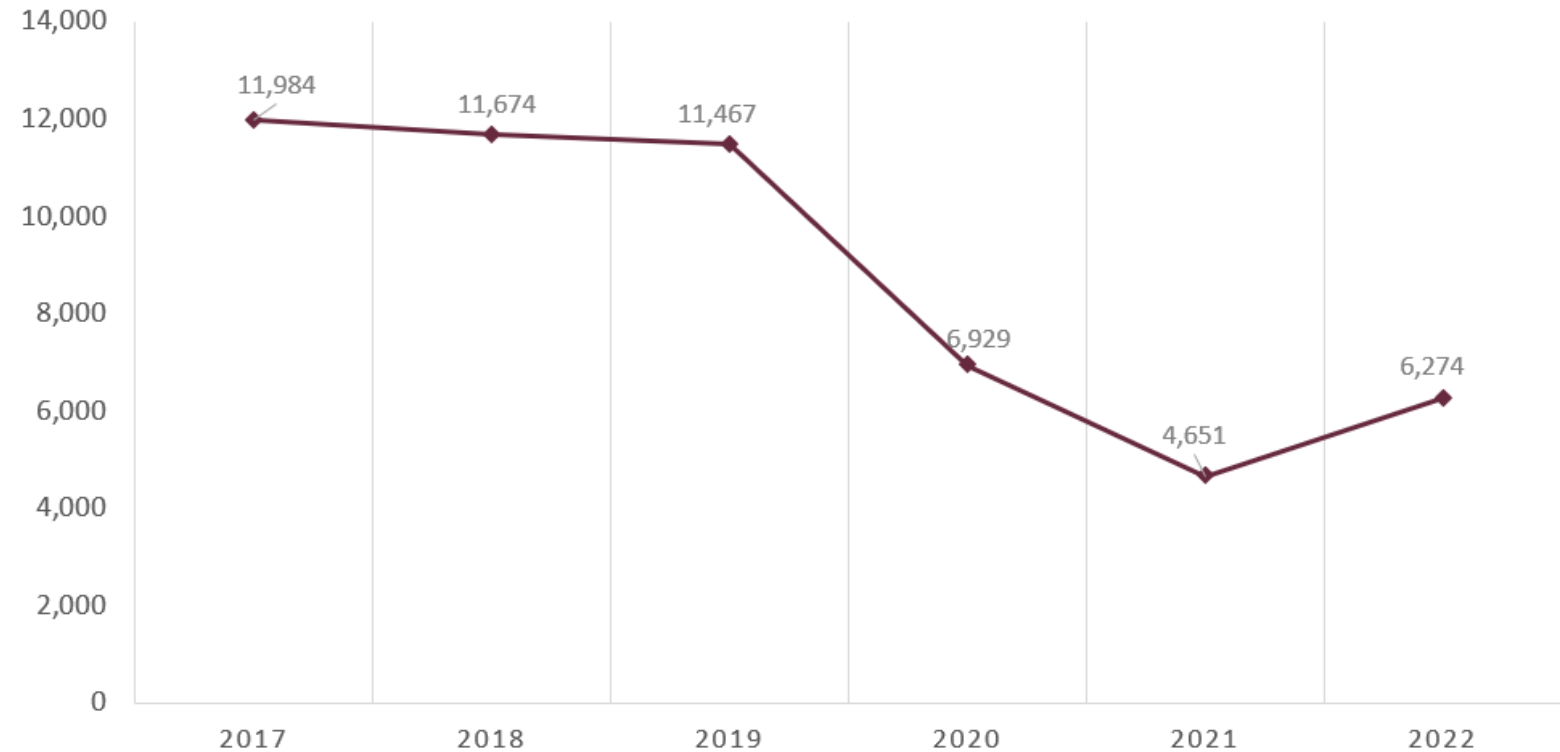
Key Findings Review

This report is a collaboration among
the Washington State Partnership
Council on Juvenile Justice, the
Washington State Office of Juvenile
Justice, and the Washington State
Center for Court Research.



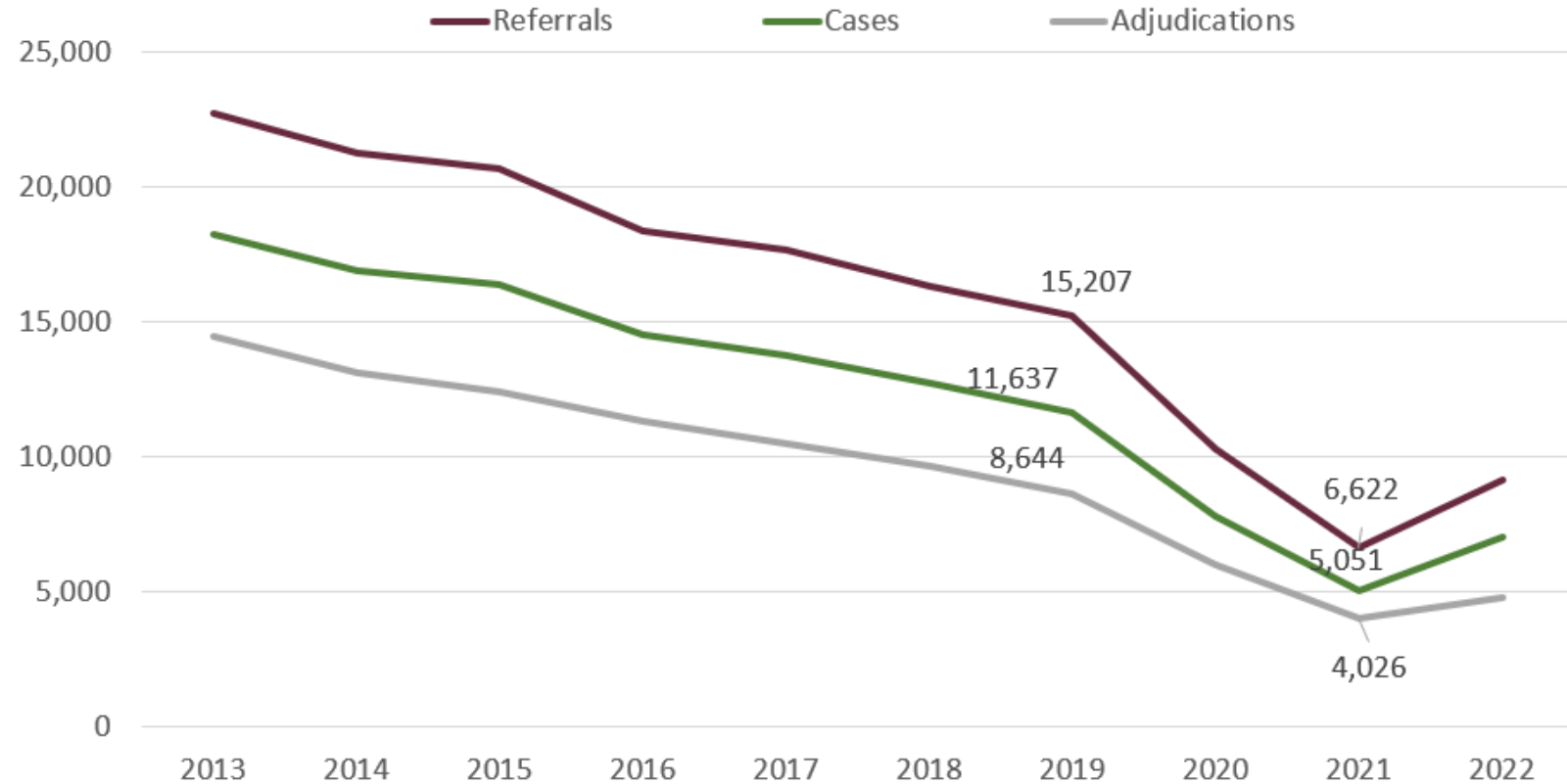
Key Finding #1: The pandemic affected the whole juvenile justice system

Figure 1: A long-term decline in juvenile arrests accelerated in 2020 and 2021 with the pandemic.



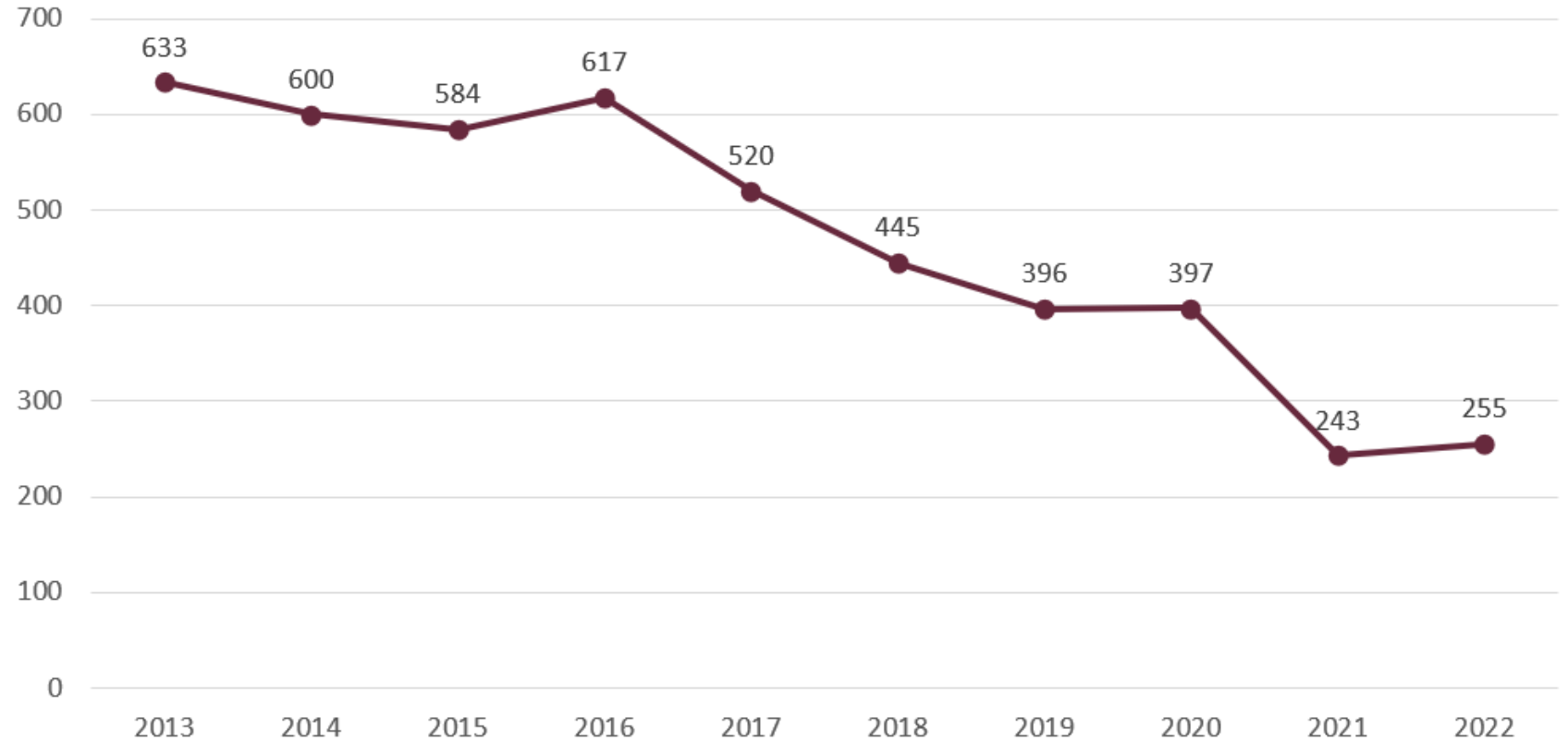
Key Finding #1 Continued

Figure 2: There was a sharp drop in juvenile court caseload from 2019 to 2021.



Key Finding #1 Continued

Figure 3: JR admissions had been dropping but held steady 2019 to 2020.



Key Finding #2: Violent crimes did not increase during the pandemic

Table 1: Arrests for violent crimes decreased during the pandemic, but there was a greater share of yearly arrests, likely due to prioritization and pandemic restrictions.

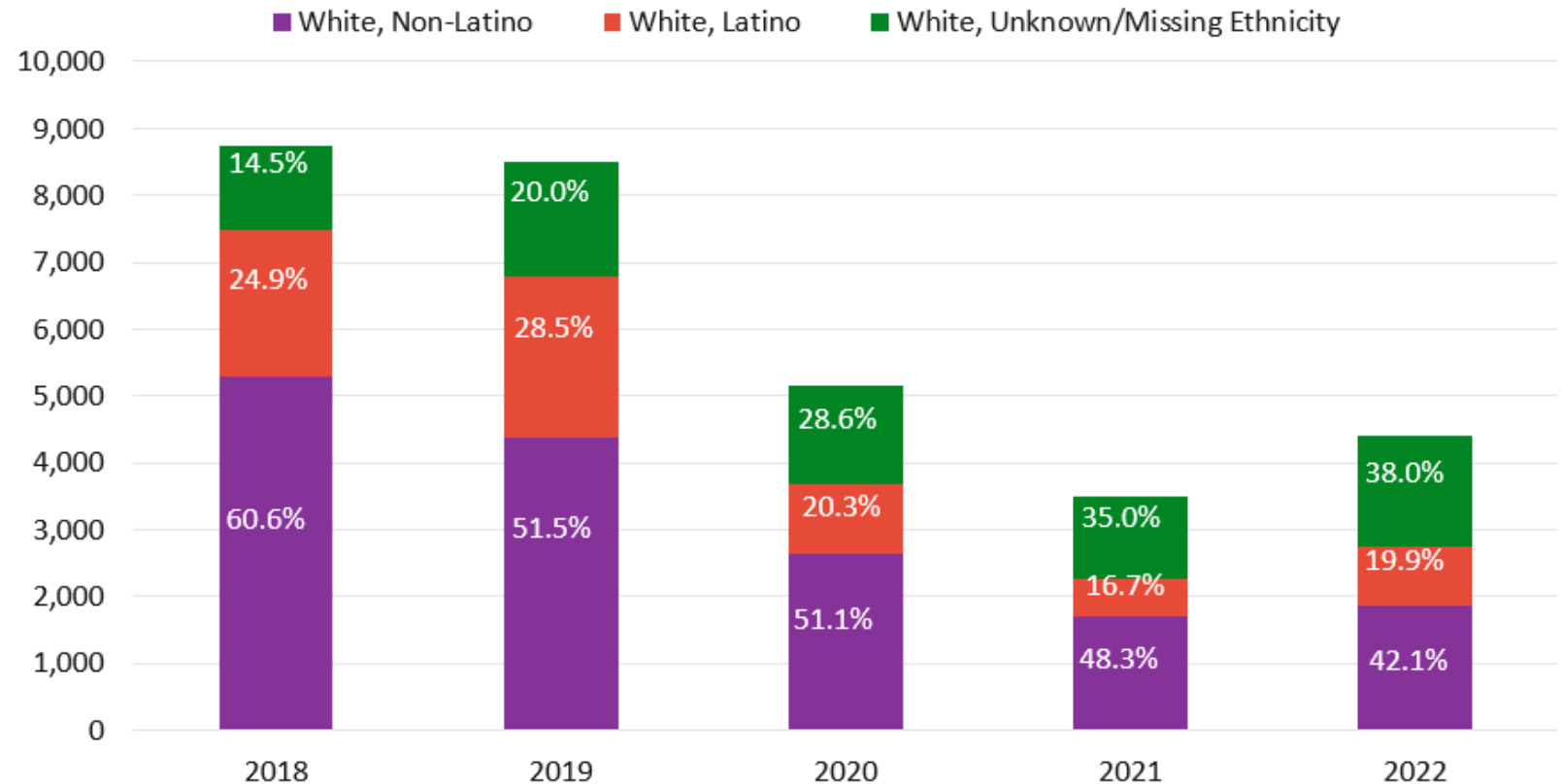
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Non-Violent Offenses	7,114	4,232	2,319	3,192
Total Violent Offenses	4,336	2,691	2,333	3,082

	2019	2020	2021	2022
% Non-Violent Offenses	62.1	61.1	49.9	50.9
% Violent Offenses	37.9	38.9	50.2	49.1



Key Finding #3: We cannot determine how many Latino Youth get arrested or have charges filed in Courts

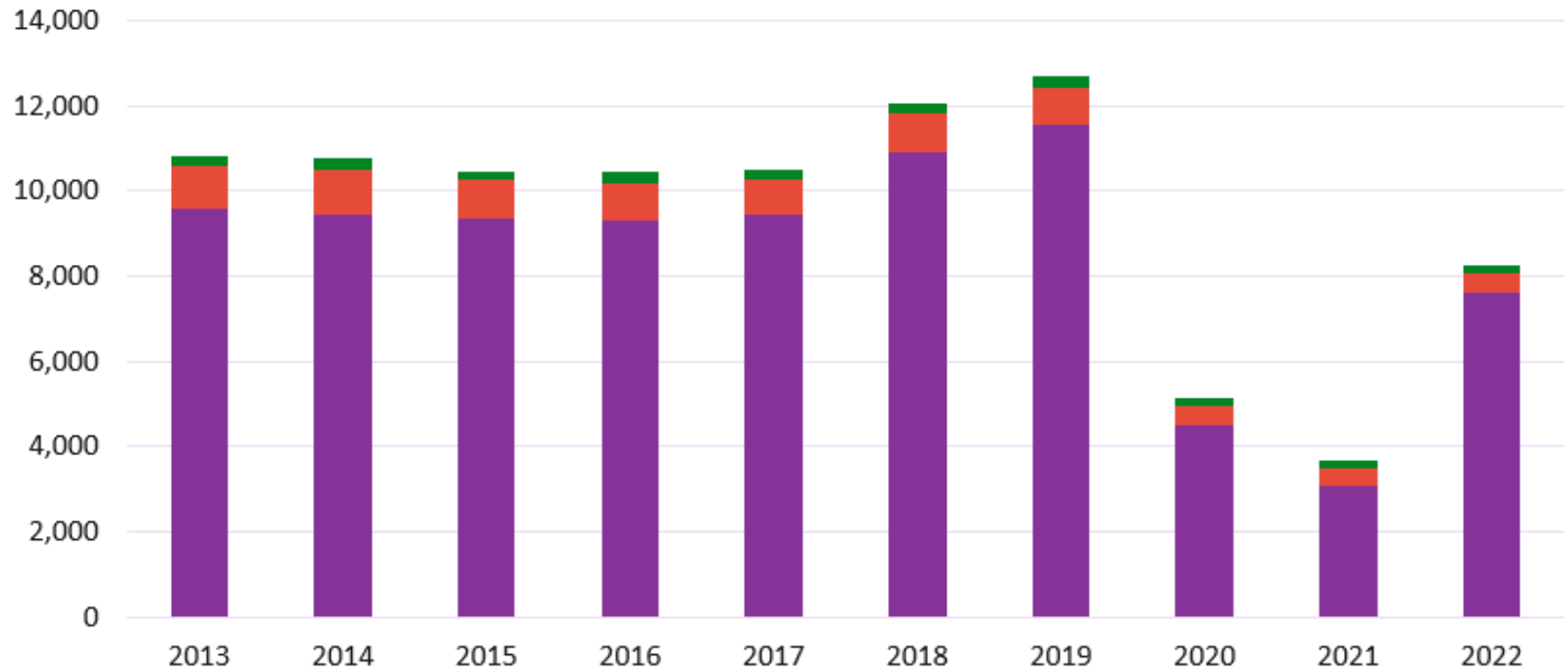
Figure 4: Percentage of White arrestees with “Unknown” ethnicity more than doubled from 2018 to 2022.



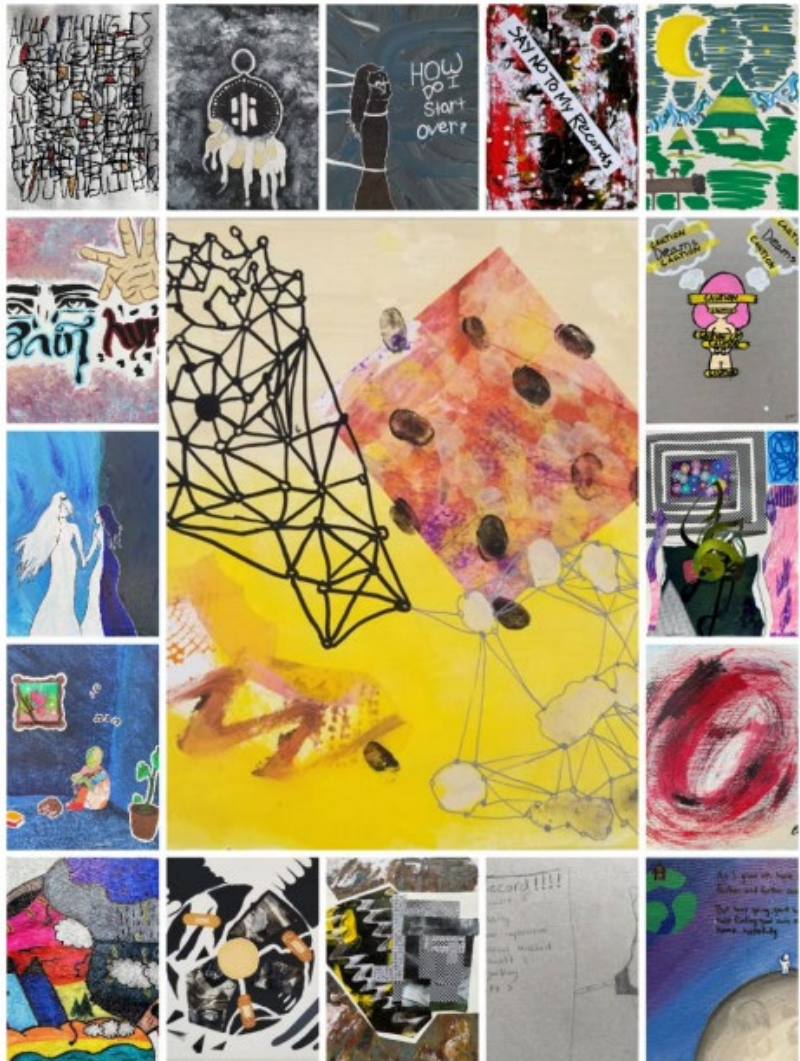
Key Finding #4: We may now be seeing the effects of new responses to non-offenders

■ Truancy ■ At-Risk Youth ■ Child in Need of Services

Figure 5: Status offense petitions peaked in 2019. All three status offenses have dropped since then.



Recommendations Review



Priority Area: Smaller State JR Facilities

Recommendation 1: Eliminate the use of large institutional facilities.

Objective A: Create a plan for establishing smaller care and custody facilities throughout the state.

Objective B: Include biophilic, trauma-informed, evidence based and youth behavioral health design principles in the new facility designs.

Objective C: Include communities most impacted by the system in the design process.

Priority Area: Sentencing Alternatives

Recommendation 2: Increase the use of Sentencing Alternatives & eliminate justice by geography in sentencing.

Objective A: Broaden eligibility for Option B and remove the disqualifier of a prior Option B disposition.

Objective B: Incentivize the use of Option B as a sentencing response.

Objective C: Re-evaluate and modernize the juvenile sentencing grid.



Priority Area: Diversion

Recommendation 3: Establish diversion as the primary response for the majority of juvenile referrals across the state.

Objective A: Incentivize the use of pre-trial diversion.

Objective B: Expand mandatory diversion to include certain low-level felonies.

Objective C: Eliminate the option to file charges on failed diversions with no new offenses.

Objective D: Direct and fund WSCCR research studies on diversion.

Priority Area: Prevention & Early Intervention

Recommendation 4: Dismantle the school to prison pipeline while strengthening the cradle to career pathway.

Objective A: Support & fund PAX Good Behavior Games.

Objective B: Provide necessary substance use disorder prevention funding to communities and schools.

Objective C: Eliminate exclusionary discipline practices in all elementary schools.

Objective D: Establish an OSPI Task Force to redesign disciplinary guidelines for common schools.

Priority Area: Prevention & Early Intervention Continued

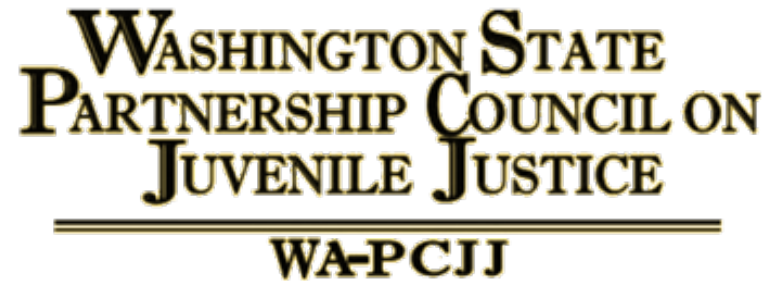
Objective E: Allocate state funds to expand the federally funded Student Assistance Program.

Objective F: Provide breakfast and lunch to all students in all common schools.

Objective G: Fund and implement after school programming.

Objective H: Expand the Nurse Family Partnership program.





Thank you!

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