



Clark County, Nevada
Department of Juvenile Justice Services

***DISPARATE TREATMENT BASED ON
RACE AND ECONOMICS
2007 REPORT***

Report for Senate Bill 232

I. Introduction

The Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) has responsibility for all local delinquency services, including Probation, Juvenile Detention and the Spring Mountain Youth Camp (SMYC).

Probation Services provides intake and diversionary services to youth referred to the department for acts of delinquency, and provides supervision and treatment services to adjudicated youth. Services are provided on the DJJS campus and at 5 neighborhood community centers. In 2007 there were 88 Juvenile Probation Officers (JPOs) and Supervisors who performed traditional probation functions for 22,743 referrals.

In addition, the department operates a 192-bed Juvenile Detention facility on the DJJS campus, housing male and female youths pending court or correctional placement. Professional staff (JPOs and Technicians) total 173. The average daily population of this unit is currently dropping dramatically due to initiatives to provide alternatives to secure detention.

The Spring Mountain Youth Camp is a 100 bed correctional facility located 50 miles from downtown Las Vegas at Mount Charleston. It is a staff-secure facility for repeat and serious male offenders, staffed with 48 JPOs, Supervisors and Technicians.

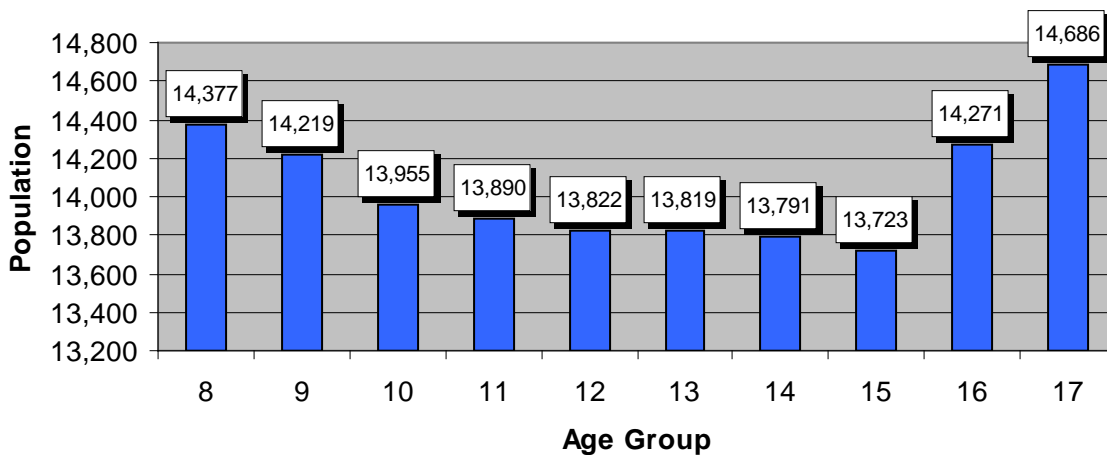
The department has used **FamilyTRACS** as its case management and information system since April 1998. There are links through **FamilyTRACS** to the Family Court, the District Attorney's office, local law enforcement, the Public Defender's office and community providers. The data for this report was gathered from **FamilyTRACS** and various State of Nevada and National publications and databases (cited where used).

II. Youth Profiles

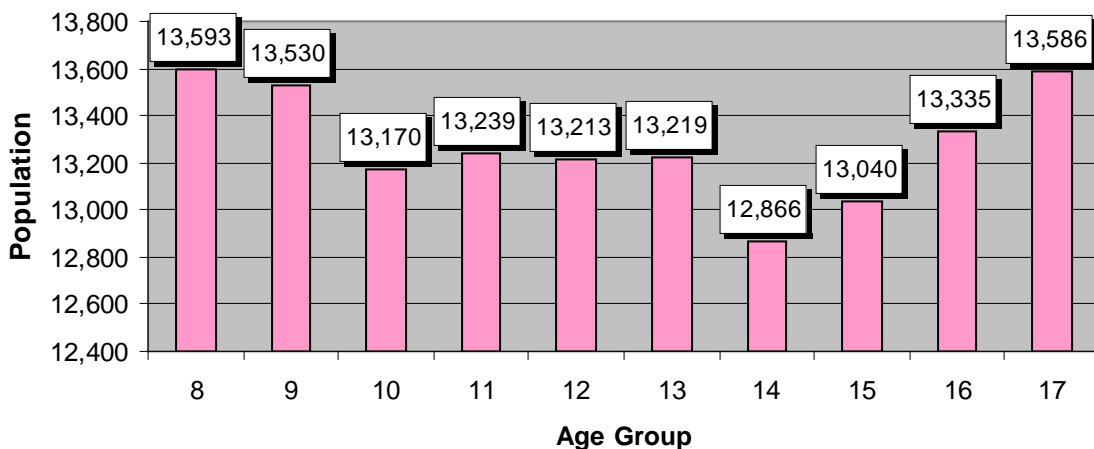
The “Youth Profiles” segment provides demographic and background information on the clients we serve at the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS). This segment is divided into two sections. The first section details demographic information of the Clark County youth population from the State of Nevada’s Demographer’s Office and the Clark County School District (CCSD). The charts in this section address the demographic areas of age, gender, and race. The second section details background information of the arrested youth from the DJJS database. The charts in this section address the household composition of the arrested youth and the gang affiliations of the arrested youth by race.

A. Demographic Information

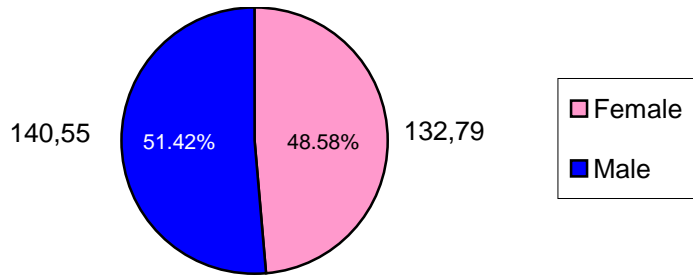
1. Youth Male Population by Age Group (N = 140,553)



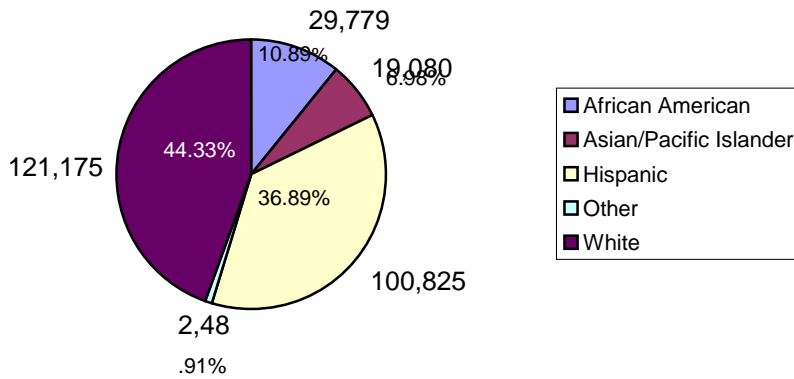
2. Youth Female Population by Age Group (N = 132,791)



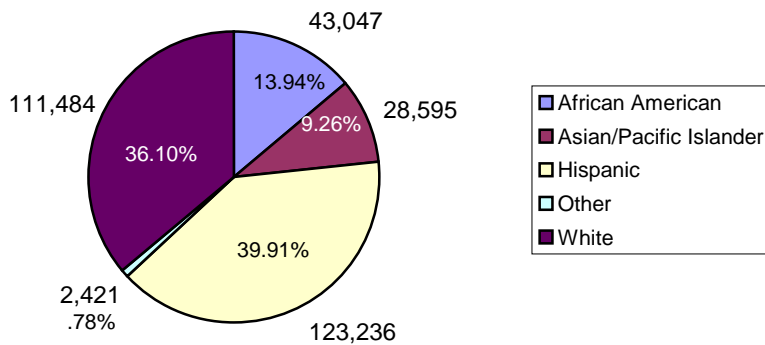
3. Youth Population by Gender (N = 273,344)



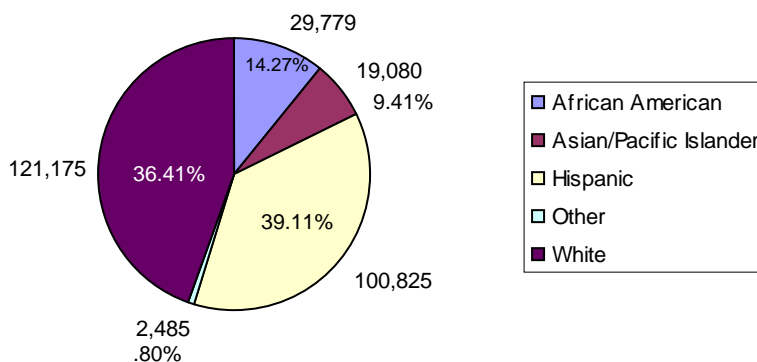
4. Youth Population by Race (N = 273,344)



5. CCSD Population by Race- All Grade Levels (N= 308,783)



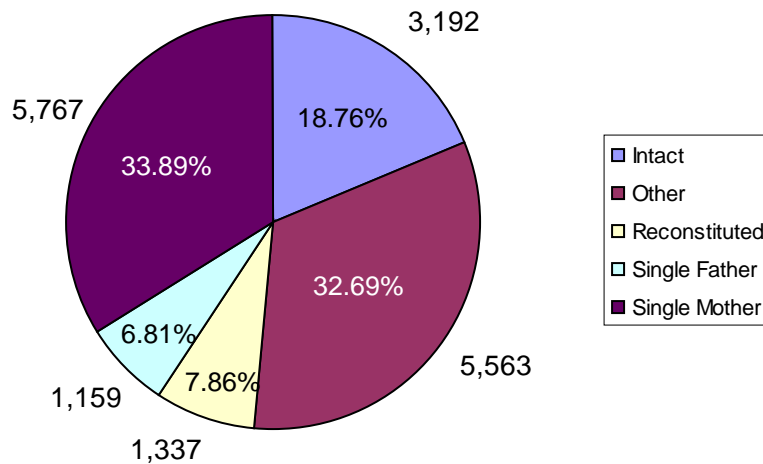
6. CCSD Population by Race- Grades 2nd – 12th (N= 257,807)



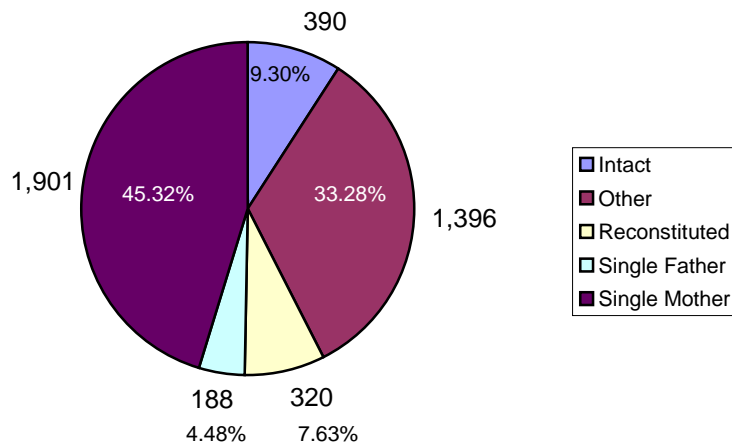
B. Background Information

1. Household Composition of Arrested Youth

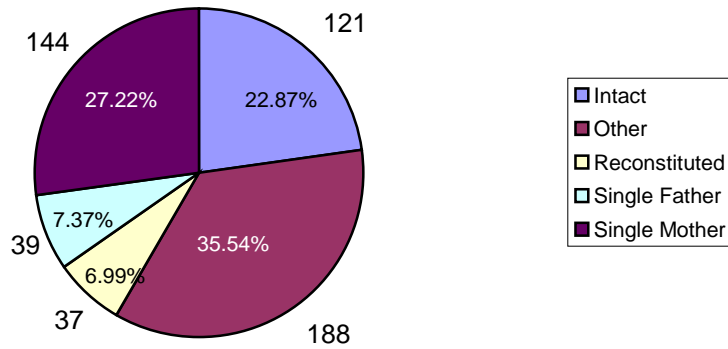
The following charts illustrate the household composition of the youth population that was arrested in 2007. For 2007, the youth population arrest count was at 17,018. The first chart is a summary for all races and the subsequent charts are detailed breakdowns by individual race. The DJJS database is the source for this information. Please note: "Intact" represents youth residing with two biological parents, "Reconstituted" represents youth residing with one biological parent and one non-biological parent, "Single Father" represents youth residing with biological father, "Single Mother" represents youth residing with biological mother and "Other" represents youth residing with siblings, extended family members or in out-of-home placements.



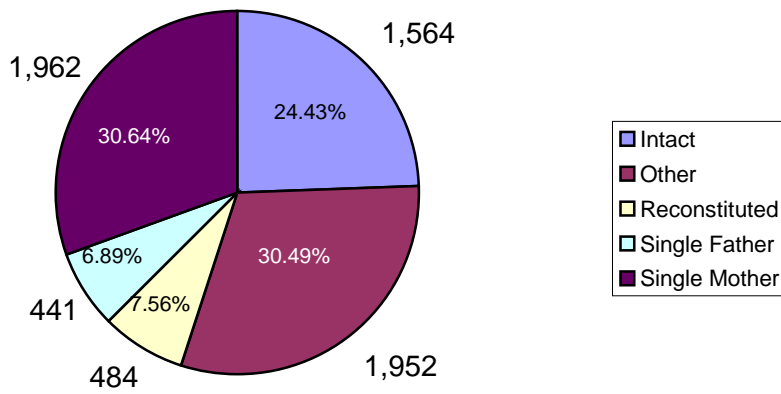
a) Arrested Black/African American Youth (N= 4,195)



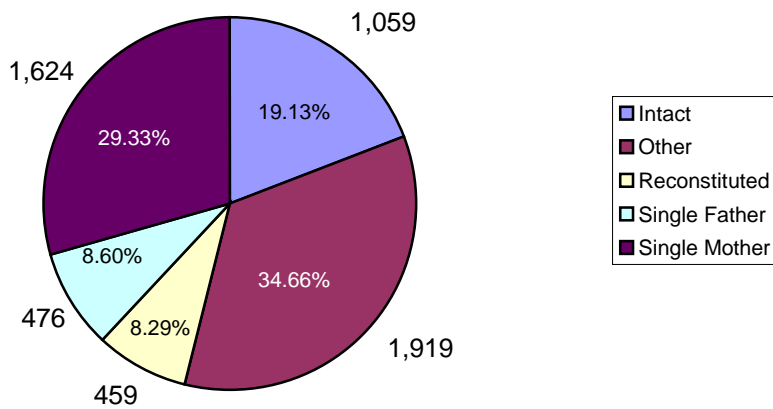
b) Arrested Asian/Pacific Islander Youth (N= 529)



c) Arrested Hispanic Youth (N= 6,403)

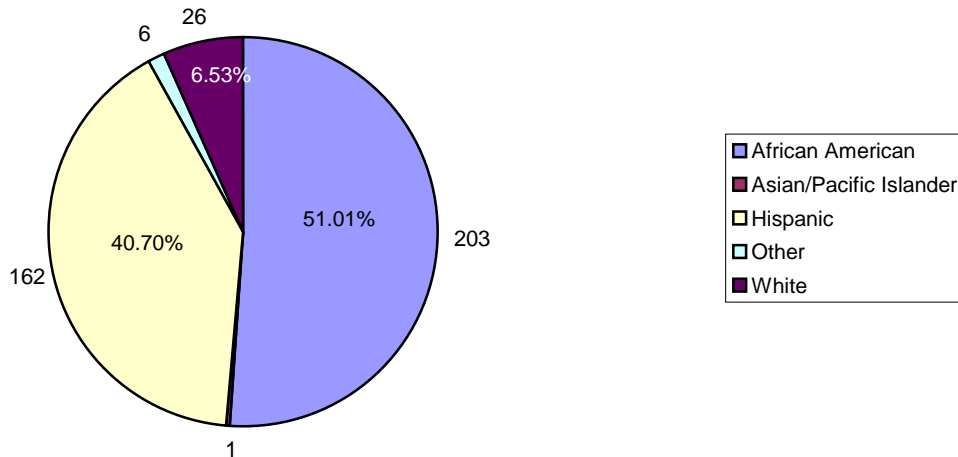


d) Arrested White Youth (N= 5,537)



2. Recorded Youth Gang Affiliation (N= 398)

The following chart illustrates youth gang affiliations, as they are recorded within the DJJS database. The statistics are retrieved based on arrest dates that fall within 2007.



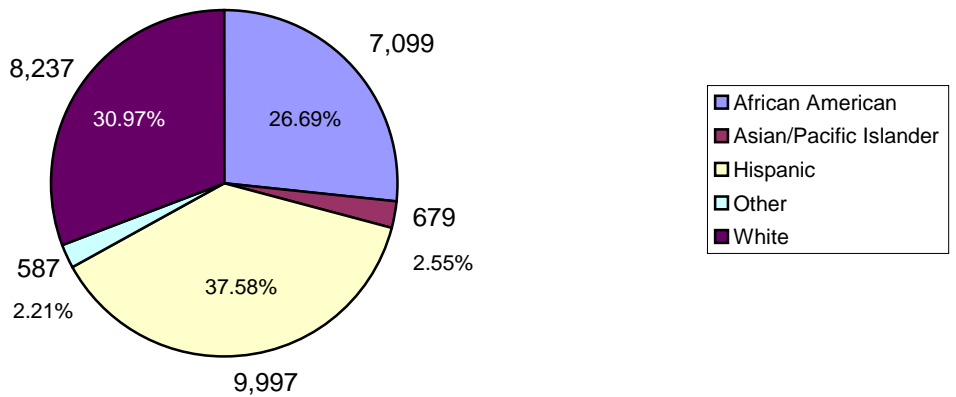
III. Decision Points

The “Decision Points” segment provides statistical decision point information on the clients we serve at the DJJS. This segment is divided into five decision points. The decision points that will be illustrated are the following: External Department, Intake, District Attorney, Judicial and Detention. All of the statistical information presented is retrieved and compiled through the DJJS database.

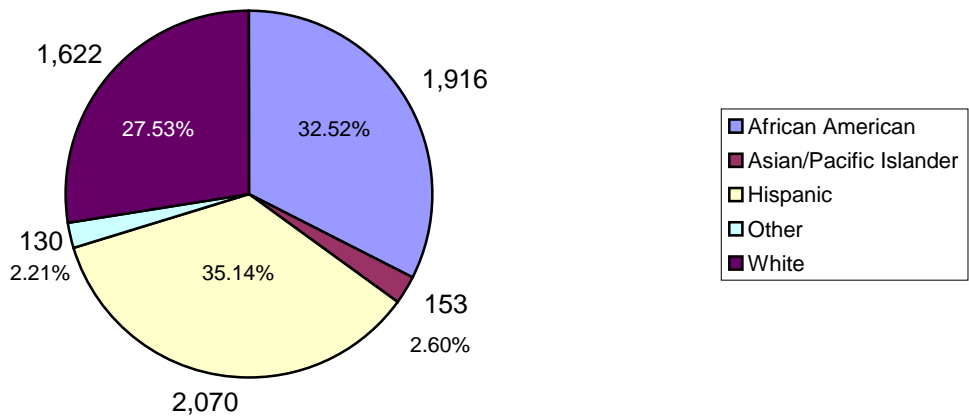
A. External Department Decisions

This decision point will illustrate the referrals the DJJS receives from external departments. The list of external departments would include, but is not limited to, the Clark County School District, the Metropolitan Police Department, the City of North Las Vegas Police Department, and the City of Henderson Police Department. This section will illustrate youth arrests, felony and gross misdemeanor arrests, and the most common charges of the arrested youth population. All of the statistics reflect an arrest date that occurred in 2007. Specifically, they reflect a count of arrests and not unique individuals.

1. Total Arrest Count (All Charges) (N= 26,599)



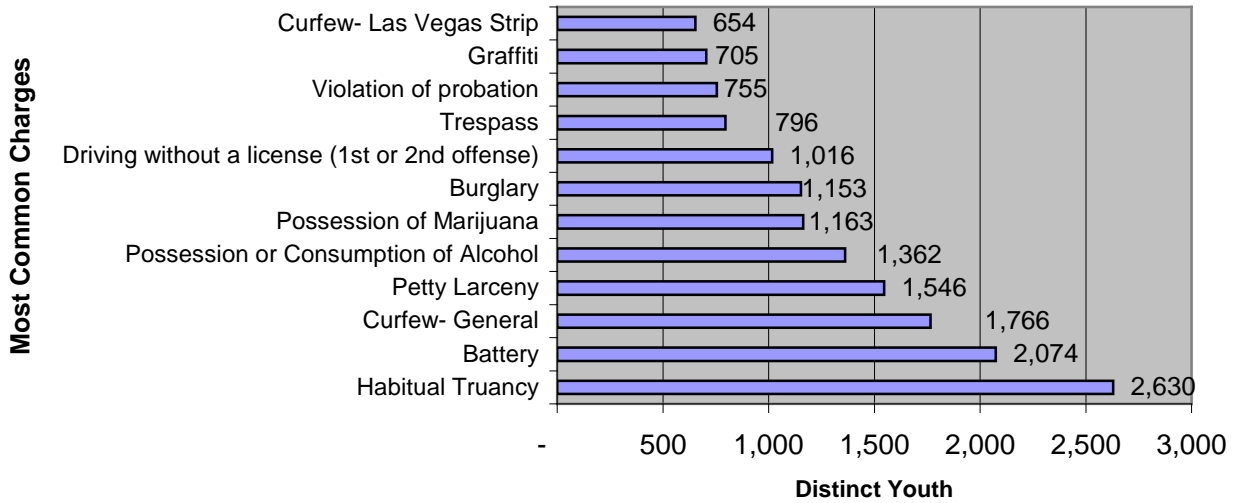
2. Felony & Gross Misdemeanor Arrest Count (N= 5,891)



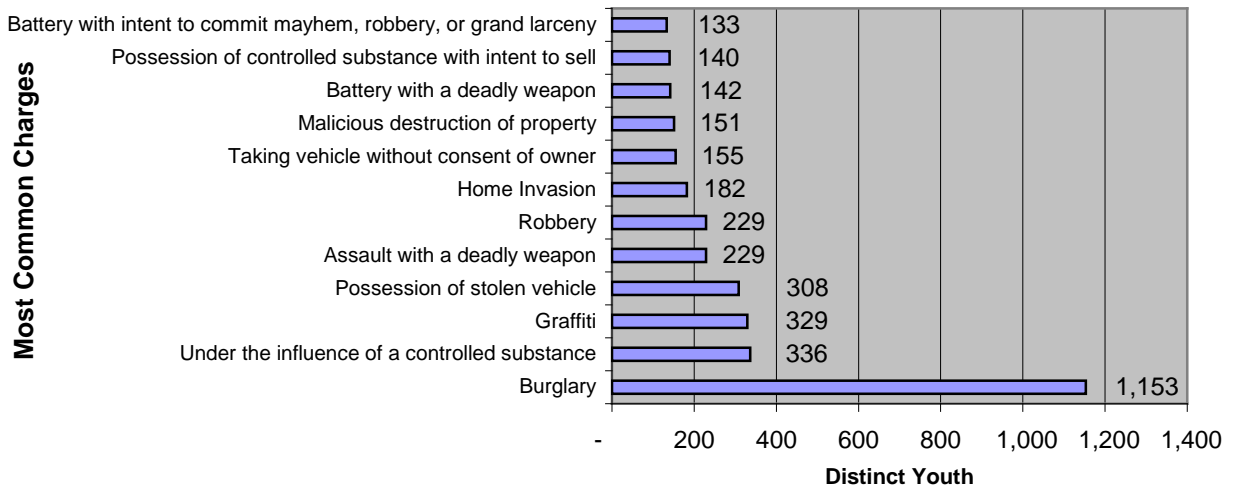
3. Most Common Charges

The following charts illustrate the maximum charge for a youth arrest that occurred in 2007. As an arrest could be associated with multiple charges, it's important to note that this chart will only reflect one maximum charge for a single arrest. The first chart represents all maximum charges that occurred in 2007. The second chart represents only felony and gross misdemeanor charges that occurred in 2007. Both charts show the top 12 charges that occurred in 2007. In addition, both charts are a statistical count of arrests and not unique individuals.

a) All Charges by Arrest Count (N= 15,620)



b) Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Charges by Arrest Count (N= 3,487)



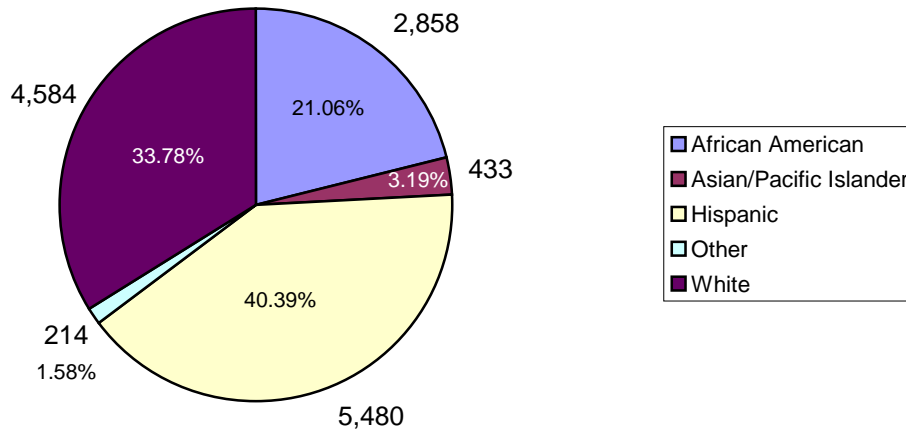
B. Intake Decisions

A majority of the youth population is filtered through the intake division. At the intake level, the arrested youth may be diverted from the judicial system or referred to the district attorney. The charts below illustrate the statistics of these two options. All of the statistics are based on a finding date within 2007. As such, the data may include arrests from the latter part of 2006.

1. Cases Diverted

The chart below does not represent unique individuals. Rather, the chart represents a total count of intake findings that are related to a diversion that has a finding date in 2007. With different diversion decisions, a youth may be counted more than once. Specifically, this count includes the following types of intake findings: services provided, hold open, credit time served, case closed, and warn and release.

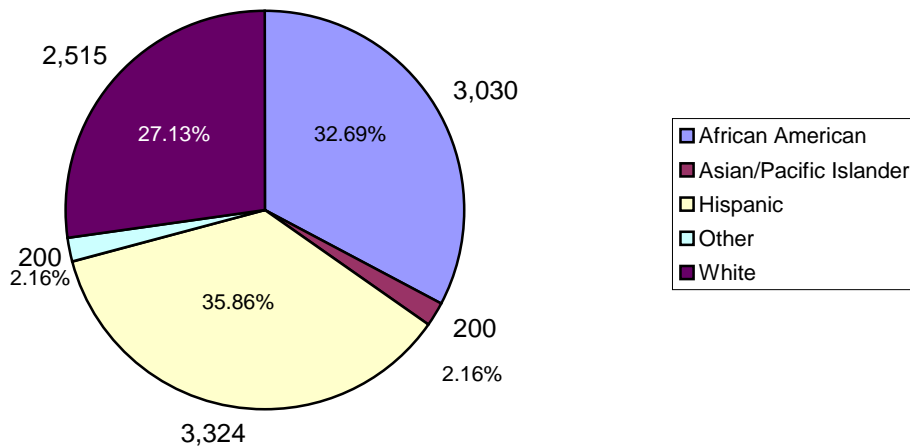
a) Diverted Youth Cases (N= 13,569)



2. Cases referred to District Attorney

The chart below does not represent unique individuals. The chart represents a total count of intake referrals to the district attorney with a finding date in 2007. With multiple arrests, a youth may be counted more than once.

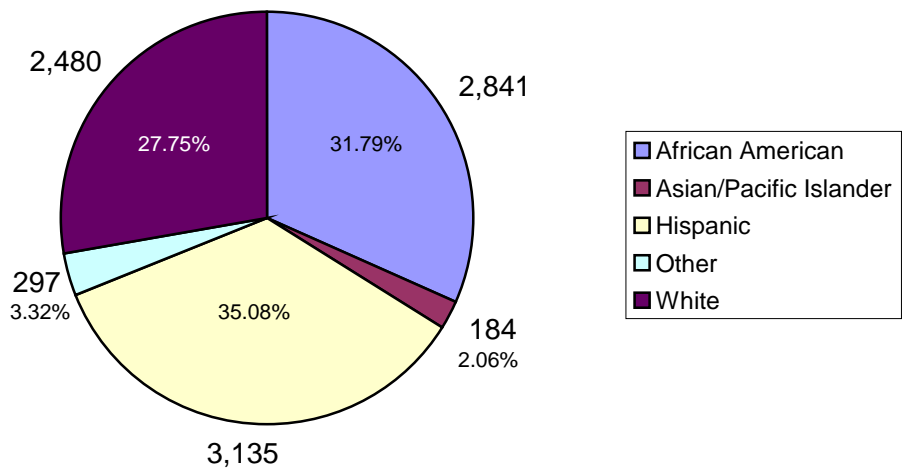
a) Total Youth Referrals to District Attorney (N= 9,269)



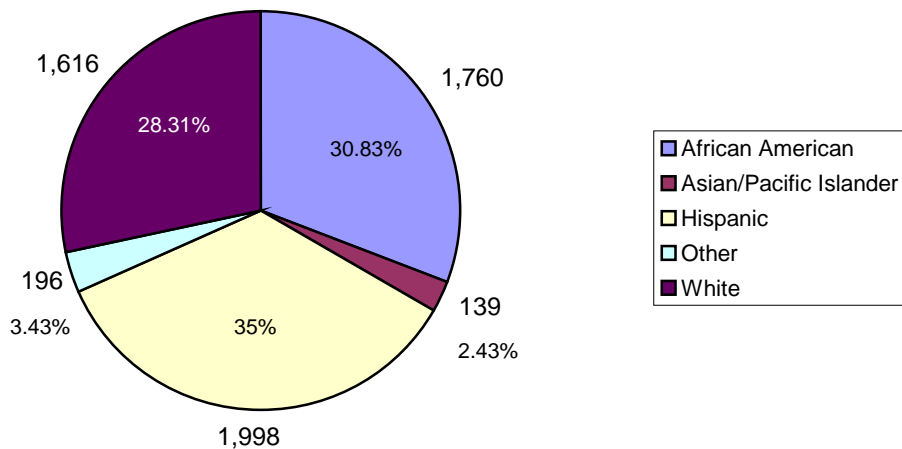
C. District Attorney Decisions

At the district attorney level, decisions are routinely made on filing youth charges and certifying a youth to adult status. These two decisions will be illustrated in the charts below. The first chart represents a total count of the petitions for the maximum charge of each arrest that was filed in 2007. The second chart represents a count of unique individuals that had their charges filed in 2007. The last two charts illustrate the certification decision.

1. Total Youth Petitions Filed (N= 8,937)



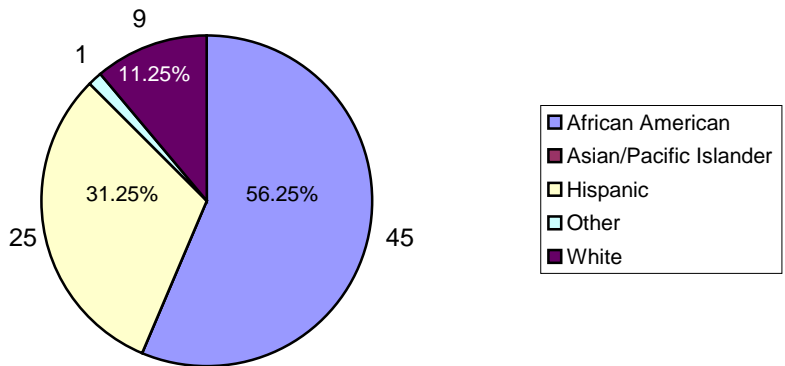
2. Total Distinct Youth With Charges Filed (N= 5,709)



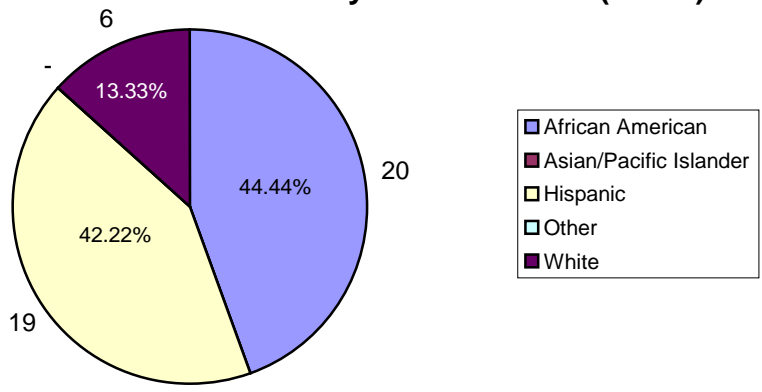
3. Youth Referred for Prosecution as an Adult

The following charts represent unique individuals. The statistics reflect individuals with a certification dated in 2007. The first chart excludes direct files and second chart represents only direct files.

a) Total Youth Certified to Adult Status (N= 80)



b) Total Youth Filed Directly to Adult Court (N= 45)

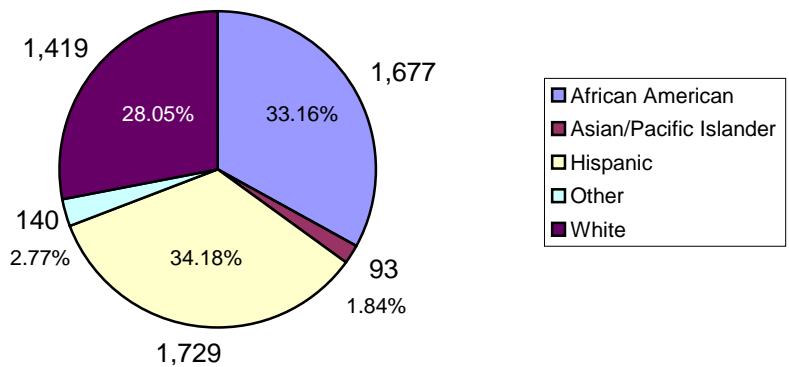


D. Judicial Decisions

At the judicial level, youth charges are adjudicated. Additionally, youth probation placement and commitment decisions are made. These decisions will be illustrated in the following charts.

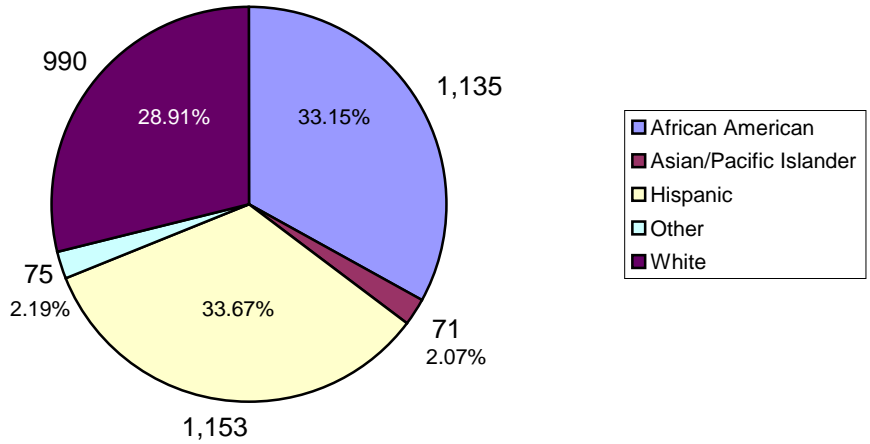
1. Adjudicated Youth Cases (N= 5,058)

This chart is a count of cases that have been adjudicated with a date that falls within 2007. As such, this count may include clients that were arrested in 2006.



2. Total Distinct Adjudicated Youth (N= 3,424)

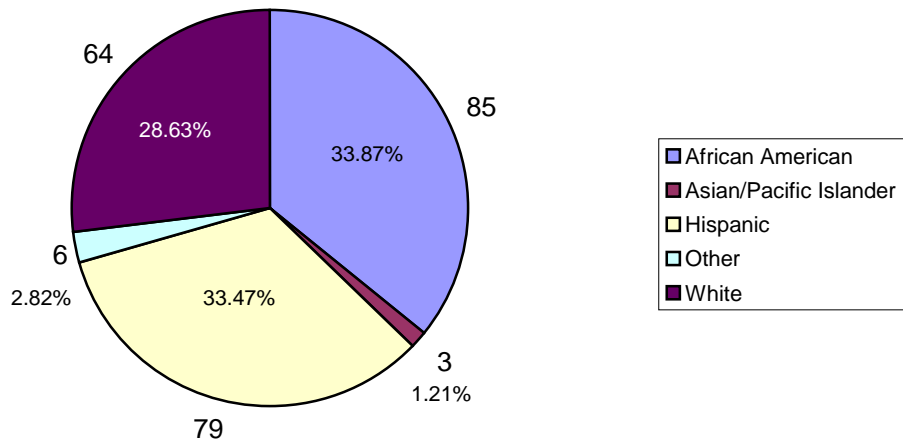
This chart is a count of unique individuals that have been adjudicated with a date that falls within 2007. As such, this count may include clients that were arrested in 2006.



3. Placements

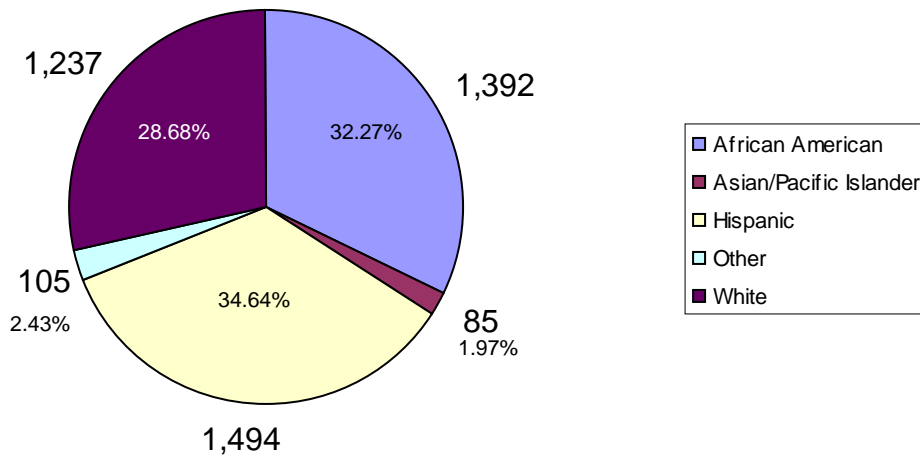
The charts below represent a total count of decisions that are related to placements. With different placement decisions, a youth may be counted more than once. As such, this count may include clients that were arrested in 2006.

a) Cases Resulting in County Camp Placements (SMYC) (N= 237)

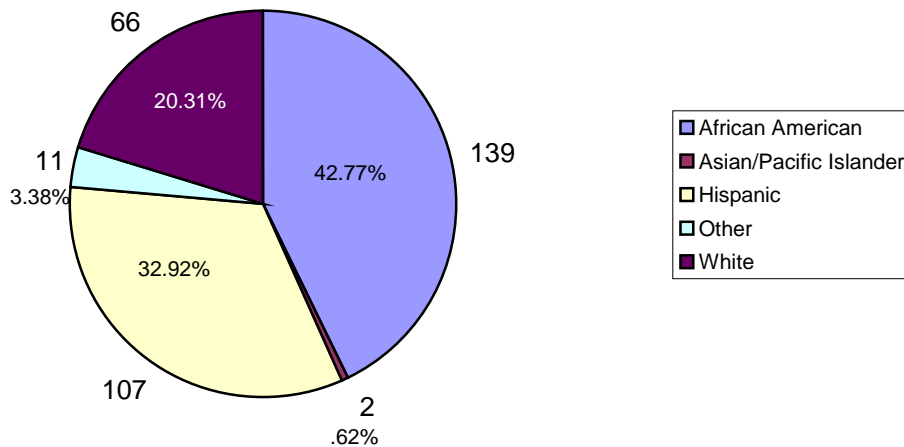


b) Cases Resulting in Probation Placements (N= 4,313)

The chart below does not represent unique individuals. Rather, the chart represents a total count of decisions that are related to probation placements that have a disposition date in 2007. With different placement decisions, a youth may be counted more than once. Specifically, this count includes the following types of decision results: formal probation, continued probation, suspension decisions, and Spring Mountain Youth Camp placement decisions.



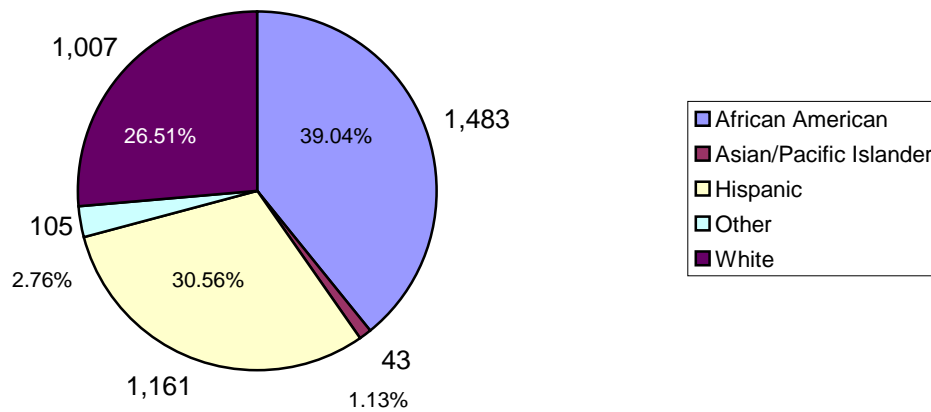
c) Cases Resulting in State Facility Placements (Elko, Caliente, Summit View) (N= 325)



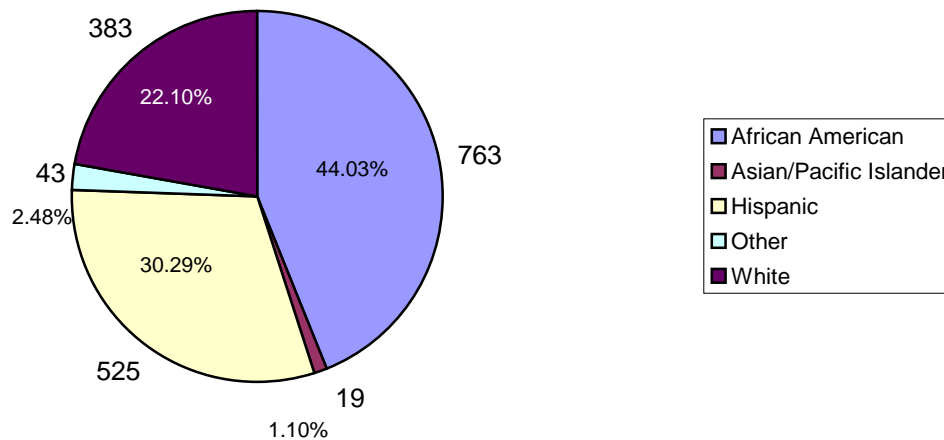
E. Secure Detention

The detention decision can occur at booking or through the judicial system. The charts below do not represent unique individuals. Rather, the charts represent a total count of detention stays for arrests that occurred in 2007. With different arrest dates, youths may be counted more than once. The first chart represents detention stays with all charges and the second chart represents detention stays with only felony or gross misdemeanor charges.

1. Total Secure Detention Stays (All Charges) (N= 3,799)



2. Total Secure Detention Stays (Felony & Gross Misdemeanor) (N= 1,733)



IV. Data Analysis

Using the guidelines of the DMC technical assistance manual, a summary table was created to put all of the major decision points under one data table. Once the summary table was complete, a rate of occurrence table was set up utilizing the figures that were assembled in the previous table. The source of the youth population statistics is the Demographer's Office of the State of Nevada. The occurrence rate for arrests is calculated per 1,000 youth, which was taken from the population statistics. The following rates are calculated per 100 arrests: diversion, district attorney referrals, detention placements, and petitions filed. The following rates are calculated per 100 filed petitions: cases adjudicated and cases transferred to adult court. Next, the following rates are calculated per 100 adjudicated cases: probation placements and confinement in secure juvenile correctional facilities. After completing the rate of occurrence table, a relative rate index (RRI) was created to compare minority rates to the rates for white youth. Utilizing a line graph to illustrate this table, the disproportionate minority contact points become clear.

A. Decision Point Summary

Data Item	African American Asian Pacific				Total
	White	Black	Islander	Hispanic	
Population at Risk	121,175	29,779	19,080	100,825	270,859
Juvenile Arrests	8,237	7,099	679	9,997	26,012
Cases Diverted	4,584	2,858	433	5,480	13,355
Cases Referred to District Attorney	2,515	3,030	200	3,324	9,069
Cases Involving Secure Detention	1,007	1,483	43	1,161	3,694
Cases Petitioned	2,480	2,841	184	3,135	8,640
Cases Adjudicated	1,419	1,677	93	1,729	4,918
Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	1,237	1,392	85	1,494	4,208
Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure State Facilities	66	139	2	107	314
Cases Transferred to Adult Court	15	65	0	44	124

B. Rate of Occurrence

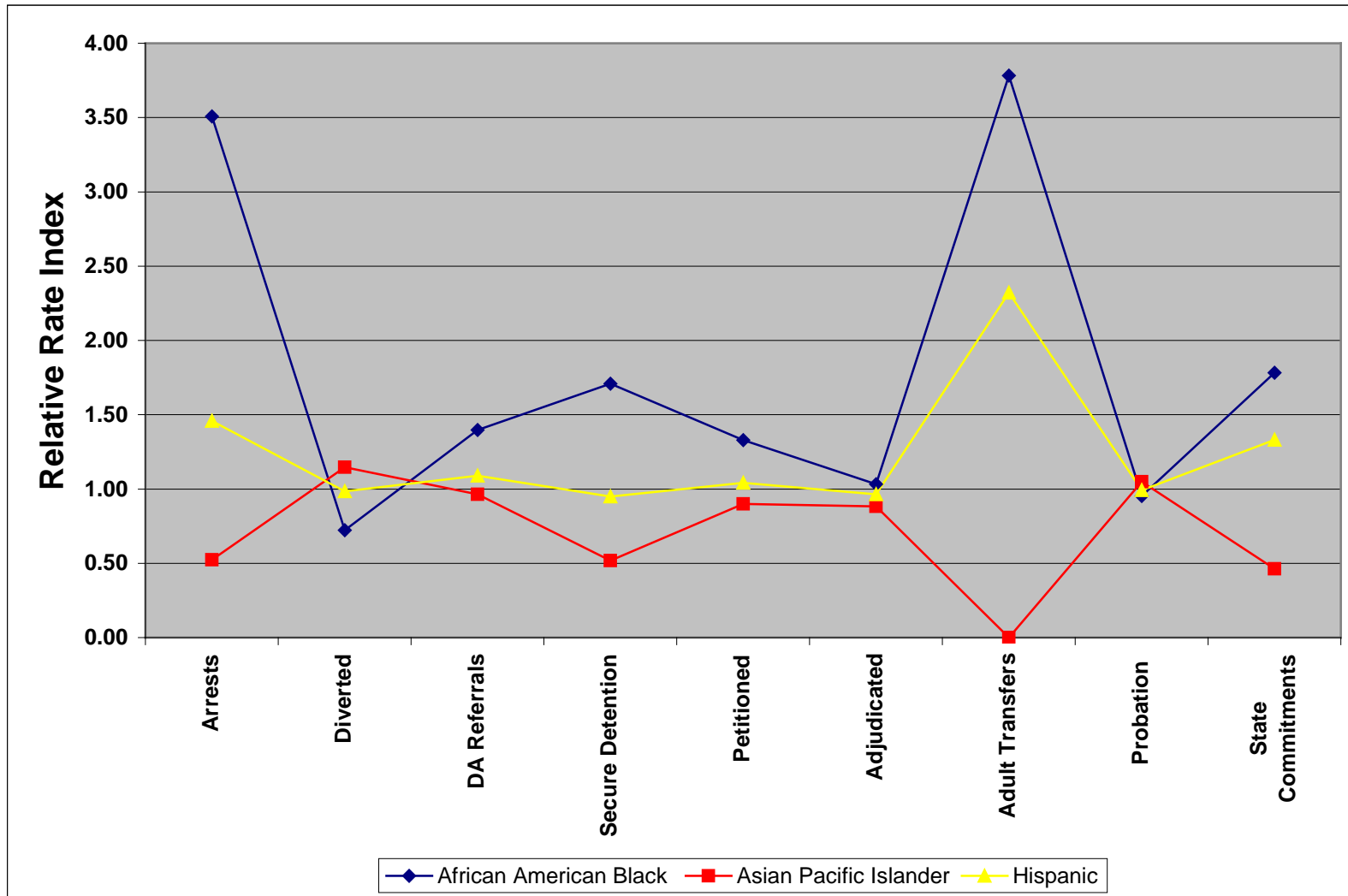
Data Item	White	African American Black	Asian Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Juvenile Arrests	67.98	238.39	35.59	99.15
Cases Diverted	55.65	40.26	63.77	54.82
Cases Referred to District Attorney	30.53	42.68	29.46	33.25
Cases Involving Secure Detention	12.23	20.89	6.33	11.61
Cases Petitioned	30.11	40.02	27.10	31.36
Cases Adjudicated	57.22	59.03	50.54	55.15
Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.60	2.29	0.00	1.40
Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	87.17	83.01	91.40	86.41
Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure State Facilities	4.65	8.29	2.15	6.19

*Per 1,000 Youth
*Per 100 Arrests
*Per 100 Petitions
*Per 100 Adjudicated Cases

C. Relative Rate Index based on the Occurrence Rates of White Youth

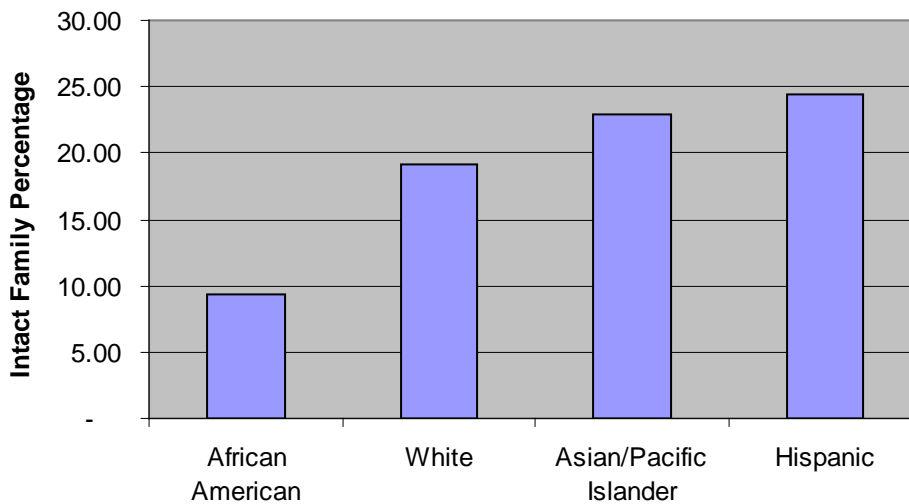
Data Item	African American Black	Asian Pacific Islander	Hispanic
Juvenile Arrests	3.51	0.52	1.46
Cases Diverted	0.72	1.15	0.98
Cases Referred to District Attorney	1.40	0.96	1.09
Cases Involving Secure Detention	1.71	0.52	0.95
Cases Petitioned	1.33	0.90	1.04
Cases Adjudicated	1.03	0.88	0.96
Cases Transferred to Adult Court	3.78	0.00	2.32
Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	0.95	1.05	0.99
Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	1.78	0.46	1.33

D. Illustration of Relative Rate Index in Comparison to Rates of Occurrence for White Youth



V. Key Findings

The closer the relative rate index is to one, the lower the amount of disproportion. After analyzing the figures presented above, the following decision points have been found to have the greatest degree of disproportion: arrests, secure detention placements, transfers to adult court, and state commitments. On the positive side, there is minimal disproportion on probation placement decisions: African American- 0.95, Asian/Pacific Islander- 1.05, and Hispanic- 0.99. Likewise, there is minimal disproportion on cases that are adjudicated: African American- 1.03, Asian/Pacific Islander- 0.88, and Hispanic- 0.96. Another key finding is the intact household composition disparity: African American- 9.30%, Asian/Pacific Islander- 22.87%, Hispanic- 24.43%, and White- 19.13%.



VI. DATA ANALYSIS

As represented in the charts on the preceding pages, African American youth appear to be over-represented in referrals by the police on felonies and gross misdemeanors. In the 2007 school year, the Clark County School District (CCSD) reports that 14% of their students were African American. Just under twice that number, 27%, of arrests were of African American youth. (In comparison, OJJDP, 2004, reports that nationally, 55% of Robberies, 38% of aggravated assaults, 24% of Burglaries and 33% of weapons charges were committed by African American youth.) It should be noted this is down 4% from 2006. Again in 2007, the over-representation also continues in some form at other junctures in the juvenile justice system. While 27% of those arrested for felonies and gross misdemeanors are African American, 39% of all detained youths are African American. This figure is down

5% from 2006. African Americans constitute 34% of commitments to SMYC (down 8% from 2005) and 43% (as compared to 44% last year) of commitments to state correctional facilities. In 2007, 80 Clark County youth were certified to adult status. This is down from 102 in 2006. Of those, 45 (56%) were African American (same percentage as last year).

Hispanic youth, representing 37% of the CCSD population, constituted 37.5% of the youth referred. Of all the youth detained, 30.5% were Hispanic, which went up from 29% from last year. 33.5% of commitments to SMYC were Hispanic, which same as last year and 33% of Clark County youth committed to the State's correctional facilities were Hispanic, up 3%. Of the 80 youth certified to adult status, 25 were Hispanic, which represents 31% (down from 2006 which was 34% and in 2005 it represented 41%).

White youth, who constitute 44% of the CCSD population, constitute 27.5% of youth arrested for felonies and gross misdemeanors in 2007, down from 30%. 26.5% of youth detained, in secure Detention, are White. This is a 2.5% increase. Commitments to SMYC are 26% White, a 3% increase. Commitments to the State facilities are 28.5% White, up 3.5% from 2006. Of the 80 youth certified to adult status, eleven (11%) were White, this is up 4.5% from 2005.

Asian or Other Pacific Islanders (and other racial categories) represent 9% of the CCSD population, and less than 2% of those detained or incarcerated at any stage of the juvenile justice system. This may speak to an opportunity to examine what is keeping this population out of the juvenile justice system, with the goal of infusing those characteristics into treatment programming for over-represented populations.

Key Findings

Background:

In 2007, there were 5,891 referrals that included at least one felony or gross misdemeanor in Clark County. That is up from 5,410 in 2006. Of that number, 1,733 youth were detained in Juvenile Detention and 237 youths were placed at SMYC. Also, 325 youth were placed in State facilities, down from 440 in 2006, and 80 were certified to adult status, down from 102 in 2006. There were approximately 26,347 total referrals involving 16,885 offenders in 2007. This is up from 2006 where there were 23,687 total referrals and 15,654 offenders.

- As is the case nationally, minority children appear to be over-represented in the Clark County juvenile justice system.

The placement of youth at State facilities decreased in number from 440 to 325 in 2007. African American represented a 1% decrease, while the White population decreased by 5%. Hispanics increased by 4%.

In SMYC, Hispanic population remained the same at 33% in 2007, African Americans decreased by 4.5% and Whites increased by 3%.

Due to the apparent overrepresentation of youth of color in secure facilities, DJJS will continue a detailed investigation of this issue. This task is a large part of the Detention Reform initiative undertaken by DJJS in the past year, a large part of which is based upon the agency being selected as a participant in the process with sponsorship by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Clark County is making strides in dealing with the over representation of youth of color in secure Detention as well as our county our county camp.

DJJS contracted with Mr. James Bell who is with the Hayward Burns Institute, who provided training to staff and stakeholders within the county and in the community. Attending where Juvenile Judge, Hearing Masters, District Attorney, Public Defender and numerous community providers. This training was meaningful in that the agency will continue to use Mr. Bell's knowledge and expertise this year to assist the DJJS and the system as a whole in a meaningful effort in reducing the over presentation of minorities in the Juvenile Justice System here in Southern Nevada. It is anticipated that his work will result in a road map that will assist the system as a whole in quantifying how we handle youth of color and to assist us in developing a road map by which to work towards reducing minority confinement.

- Clark County acknowledges that there are an insufficient number of community-based treatment alternatives for female offenders. Further analysis is indicated to ascertain if females of any race are over-represented in commitment to state institutions.
- Culturally competent services, in the language that the family speaks, continually need to be the focus in Clark County. DJJS continues its efforts to recruit and hire professional and support staff with Spanish language skills.