

The Council is grounded in prevention and works to ensure justice by building equitable and effective opportunities for children, youth and families to thrive in Vermont.

**Council for Equitable Youth Justice**  
**Meeting Agenda February 15, 2024, 10:30 – 1:00 p.m.**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85334702349?pwd=a5wx9ur3u9PvBZM2FZte6MEgScFyw1.1>

Members Present: Linda Johnson, Donn Hutchins, Kreig Pinkham, Mike Loner, Amy Davenport, Karen Vastine, Stuart Berry, Sparks, Julia Brand, Laurey Burris, Katherine O’Day, Matt Wolf

Members Missing: Mercedes Avila, Kirsten Kersey, Christopher Lukasik, Matt Wolf

Partners Present: Elizabeth Morris, Matthew Bernstein, Lauren Higbee

Notes approval:

Motion to approve January, all move, seconded. No discussion. Unanimous.

Motion to approve “special meeting”, all move, seconded. No discussion. Stu & Matt abstain. Passed.

Annual Report:

**VOTE to approve the Annual Report.**

Move to approve the annual report. Second. Discussion, none. All yes. Unanimous Pass.

CJJ Annual Conference:

There are four conferences throughout the year:

1. Coalition of Juvenile Justice Annual Conference – 5
2. Coalition of Juvenile Justice Racial and Ethnic Disparities Conference – 2
3. Coalition of Juvenile Justice Youth Conference – 2
4. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference – November 19-21, 2024 – 1

**Motion to send 5 people to send the conference. Seconded. All yes. Passed Unanimously.**

It costs approximately \$2,100 to send someone to the CJJ Annual Conference if we eliminate Hill Day.

Flight	Registration	Hotel	Ubers	Bag Fee	Food	Total per person
\$250	\$370	\$866.15	\$200	\$70	\$316	\$2,072

SAG Operating available:

- \$28,950 in FFY2021 remaining.
- Can use **up to** \$24,157 from FFY2022, but the budget has not been finalized with OJJDP.
- Can use **up to** \$30,000 in FFY2023, but the budget has not been finalized with OJJDP.

Relevant Legislative Updates:

State Legislators were very skeptical about postponing the RTA and said so openly in testimony. Karen testified on behalf of the council on RTA – watch Karen’s Testimony (and Lael Chester and DCF staff’s testimony on the issue) here: [Senate Judiciary 02-07-2024 9:00AM \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SenateJudiciary02-07-20249:00AM).

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H. 645, an act relating to the expansion of approaches to restorative justice [Bill Status H.645 \(vermont.gov\)](http://www.vermont.gov)– will likely get voted out of committee and then go to the appropriations committee first.

Part one of the Youth Judiciary Data Overview:

Judiciary Database: FFY2021-FFY2023

2

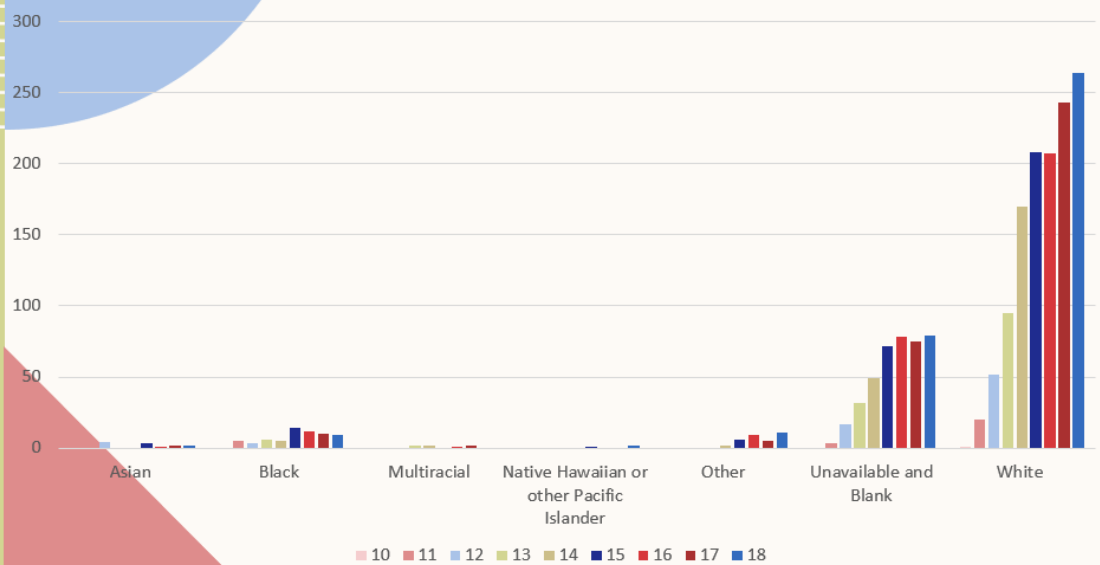
## DELINQUENCY FILINGS

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Asian			4			3	1	2	2
Black		5	3	6	5	14	12	10	9
Multiracial				2	2		1	2	
Native Hawaiian or <u>other</u> Pacific Islander						1			2
Other					2	6	9	5	11
Unavailable		3	13	27	36	65	62	66	66
White	1	20	52	95	170	208	207	243	264
Blank			4	5	13	7	16	9	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>367</b>

Judiciary Database: FFY2021-FFY2023

3

## DELINQUENCY FILINGS

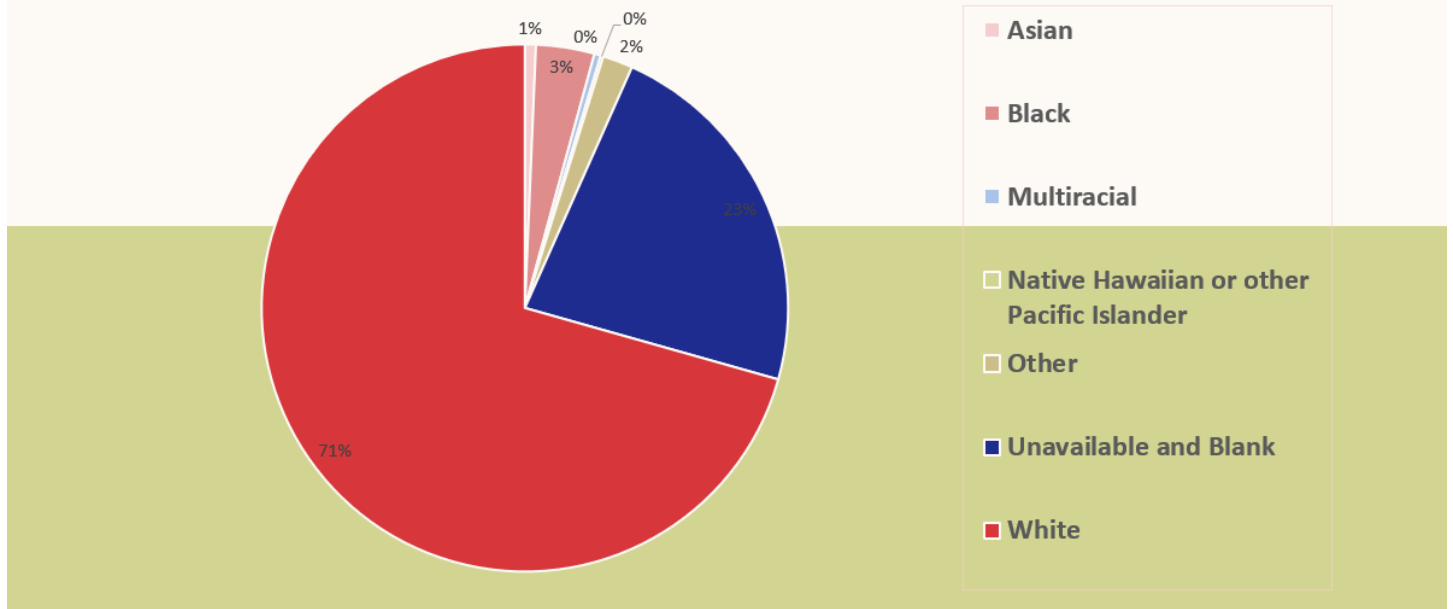


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Judiciary Database: FFY2021-FFY2023

4

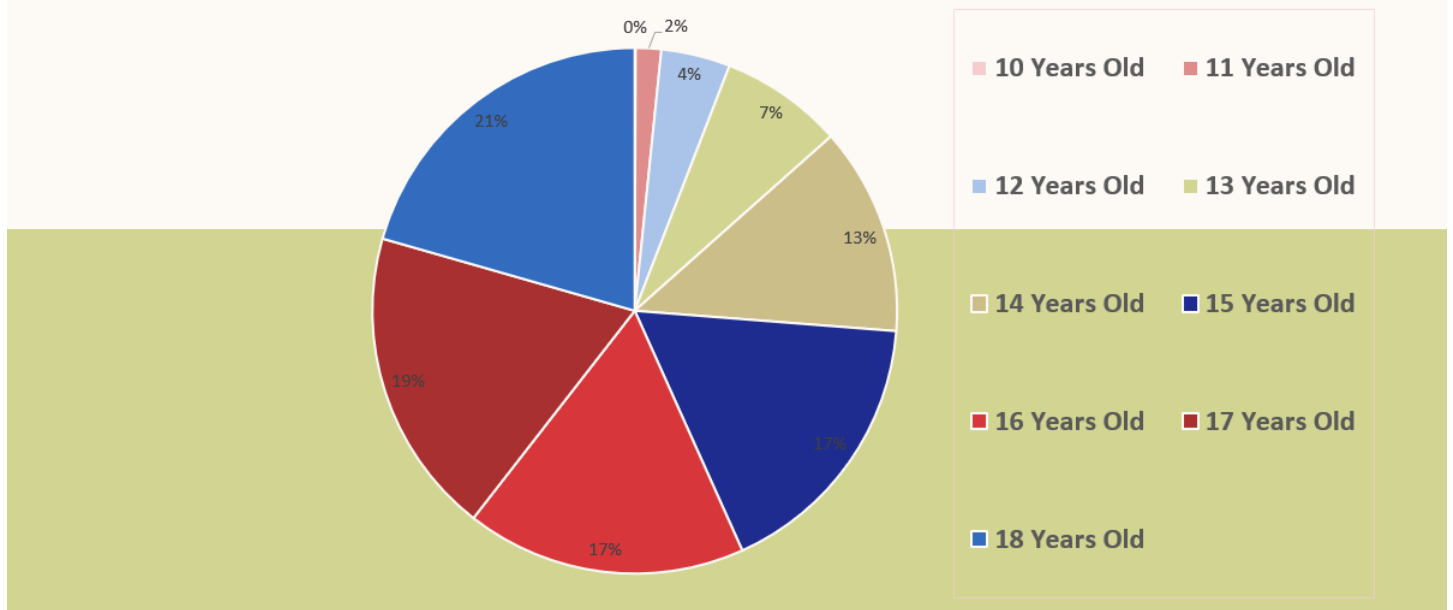
# DELINQUENCY FILINGS BY RACE



Judiciary Database: FFY2021-FFY2023

5

# DELINQUENCY FILINGS BY AGE



Three Year Planning:

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The Council broke out into two groups to discuss the survey results and the most pressing external and internal concerns that should be addressed in the three-year plan. Salient comments below:

- Because compliance issues are key. Concerns about the future administration creates a sense of urgency, so what is the opportunity this year? How do we support the HESOC without falling into a trap of “if you build it, they will come?” But without a juvenile secure facility, the norm is an adult facility. This should be a focus for us.
- The perspective of youth and negative talk about youth is a huge concern and needs to be addressed.
- The mental health aspect of kids in our systems caught my eye. I think it’s important to zone in on that because mental health contributes to crime rates. During covid, when mental health declined I noticed a lot of youth get into certain activities that they probably wouldn’t have with proper guidance and education. I agree with Matt, I think changing the communication between adults and youth would allow youth to fill a narrative that isn’t only bad. I think when there is a narrative that youth is bad through media and in our education systems, kids are more likely to fill that role. Compared to creating a dialect where kids feel respected and heard too.
- I wonder if a way to increase group voice is to share any notes taken during the meetings and send them to large email chain with questions attached for missed participants to give their input. It is extra work for the individual who is taking notes, but I think it would allow people who can’t come to every meeting or attend the full time to still have a voice. There is usually notes sent out post meeting, which helps a lot. But if we could create a document or some sort of response that is not via email would maybe allow more group think via technology

Committee Updates:

1. ERD Committee
  - a. **Motion to move forward with a support letter to follow RDAP’s annual report. Seconded. Unanimous. Passed.**Relevant discussion on data:
  - If the courts want to require race data on their database (i.e. can’t move forward in the system before inputting that information) the database upgrade would cost \$50,000.
  - Moving forward with supporting a data request in state statute would make this happen, and the legislature could also potentially ensure that there’s funding available to make upgrades. Friendly amendment to add in this language regarding \$. **Donn accepted the friendly amendment. All in favor, with the amendment.**
2. YS Committee
  - a. Working on youth resource map and upcoming conference!
3. SI Committee
  - a. Discussion regarding how we can address violation issues and using the approximately \$240,000 worth of monies.