

JUVENILE AND EMERGING ADULT JUSTICE

September 27th, 2019

Advancing Juvenile Justice Reform in Vermont – VT Law School

Karen Vastine, Senior Advisor to the Commission of DCF

TIMELINE

Act 201, Section 20 requires that DCF prepare a report for the legislature on November 1, 2019 that includes:

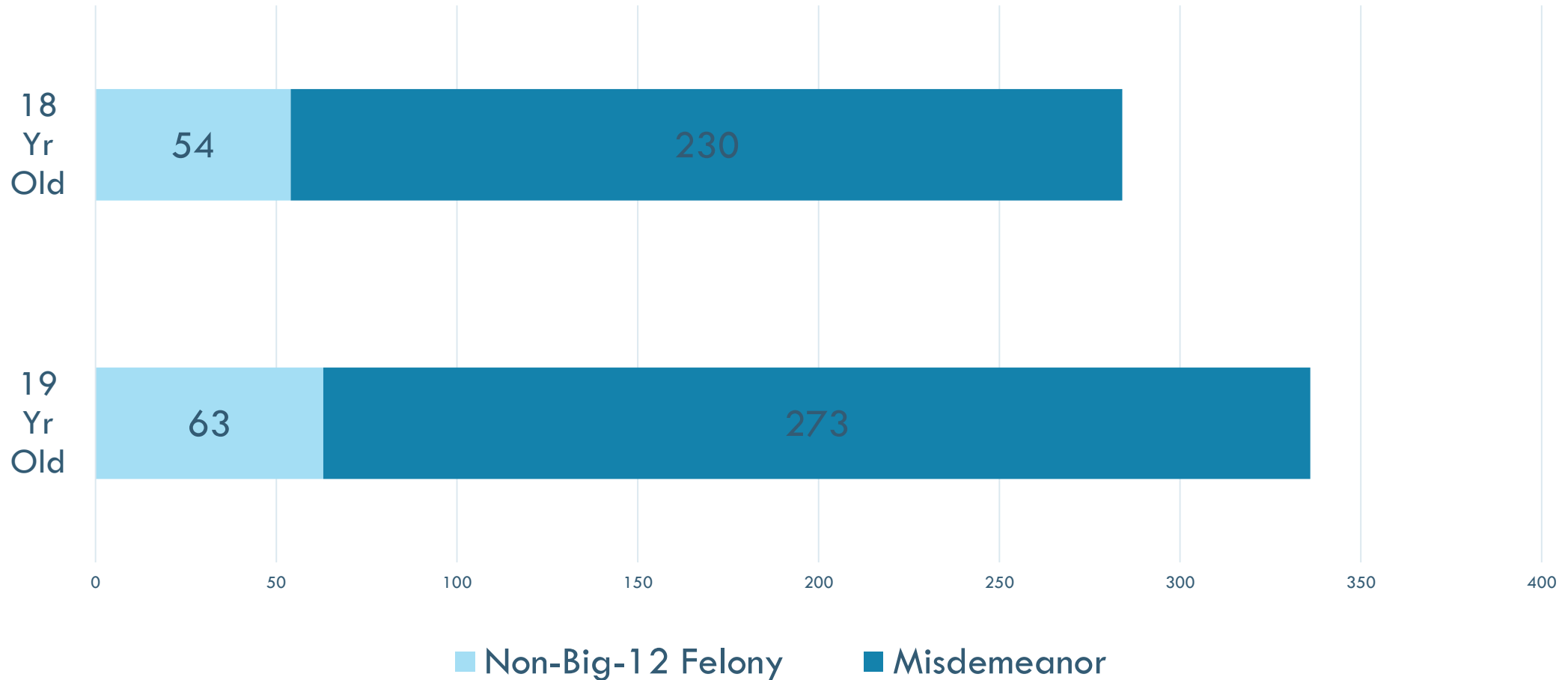
- (A) identification of and a timeline for structural and systemic changes within the juvenile justice system for the Family Division, the Department for Children and Families, the Department of Corrections, the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, and the Office of the Defender General;*
- (B) an operations and business plan that defines benchmarks, including possible changes to resource allocations; and*
- (C) a clearly defined path for geographic consistency and court alternatives and training needs;*

ANALYSIS OF COURT DATA

DCF contracted with Judge Davenport to provide the following data:

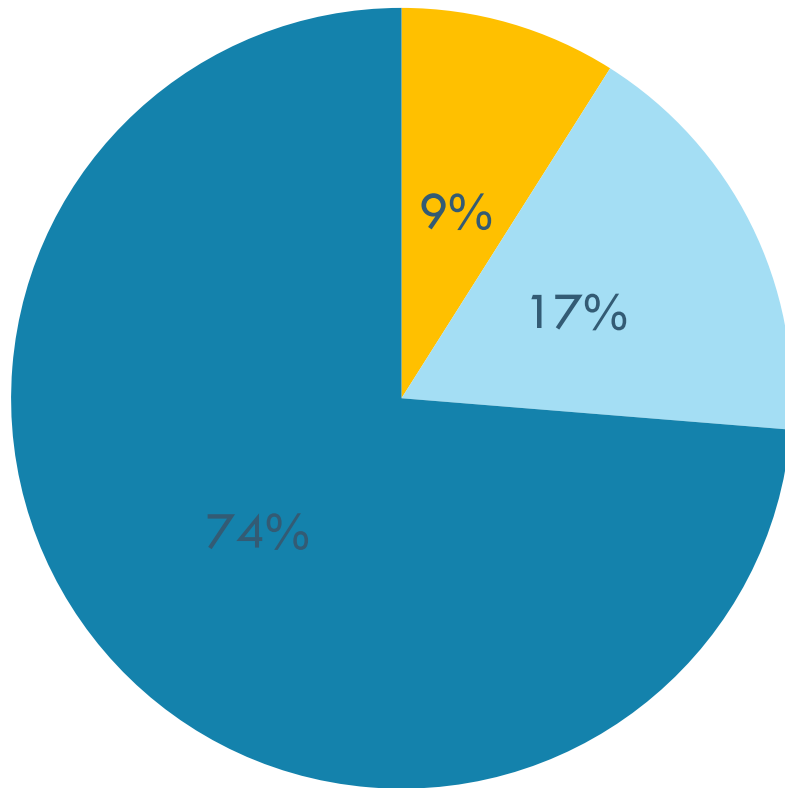
- Number of cases involving 18/19-year-olds in 2017 and 2018
- Types of charges
- Outcomes with respect to case disposition
- Comparison to juvenile delinquency

FY18: **FILINGS** OF NON-BIG 12 FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS FOR 18 AND 19 YEAR OLDS



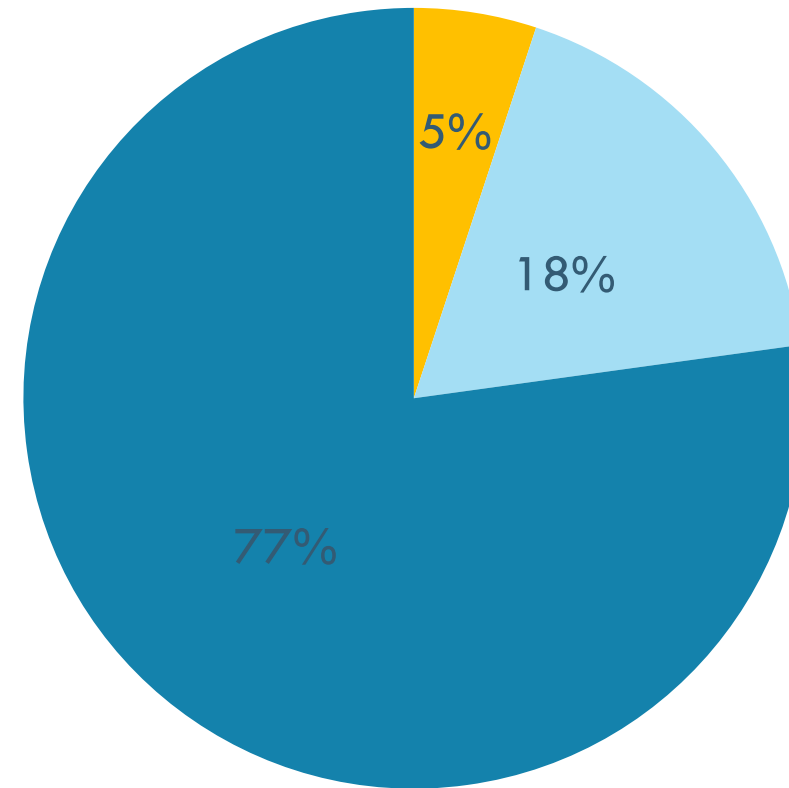
OFFENSE LEVELS IN FY18

18 year olds



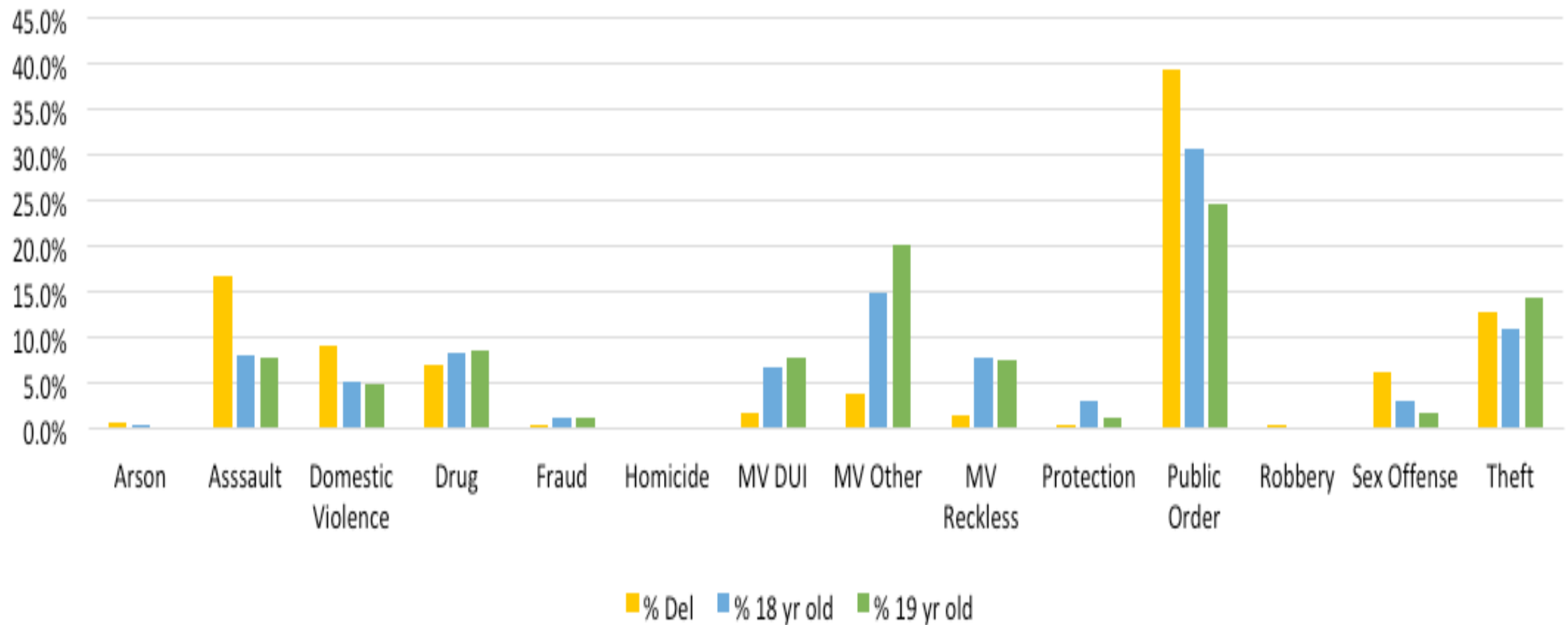
■ Big 12 ■ Felony ■ Misdemeanor

19 year olds

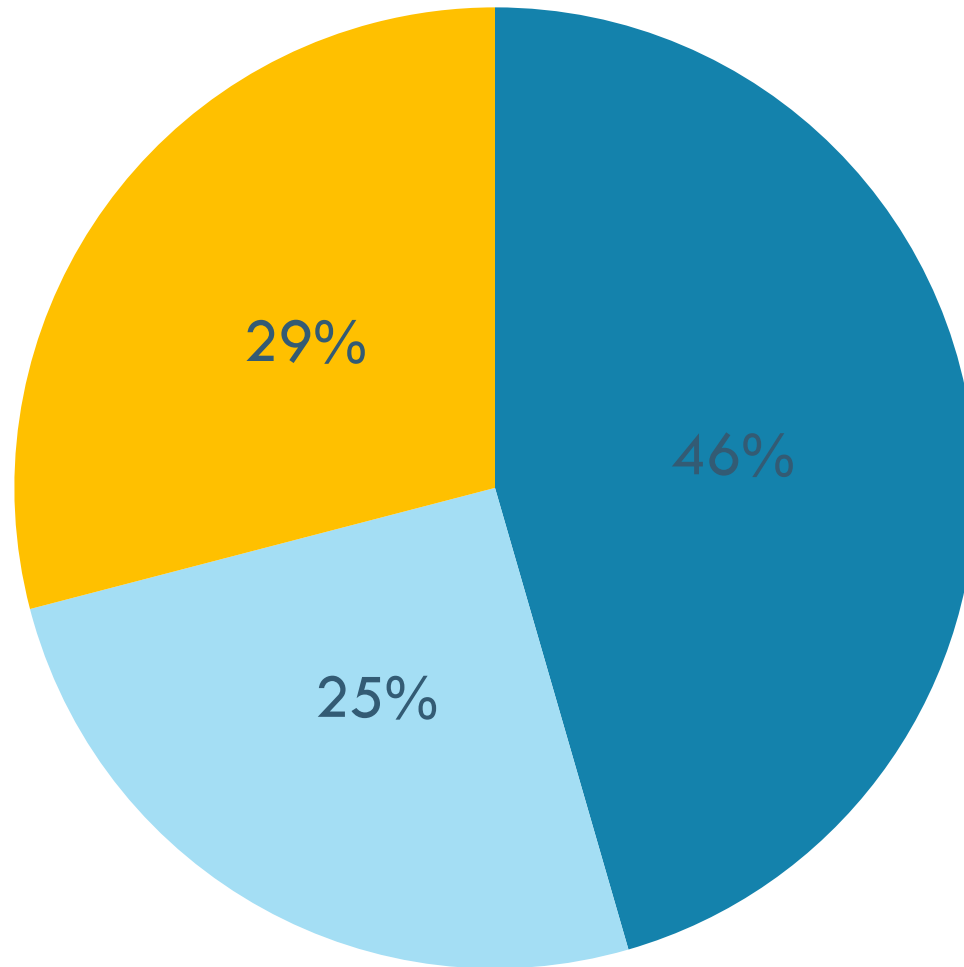


■ Big 12 ■ Felony ■ Misdemeanor

Offense Type Distribution Based on % of Cases Closed in FY18



OUTCOMES IN DELINQUENCY CASES



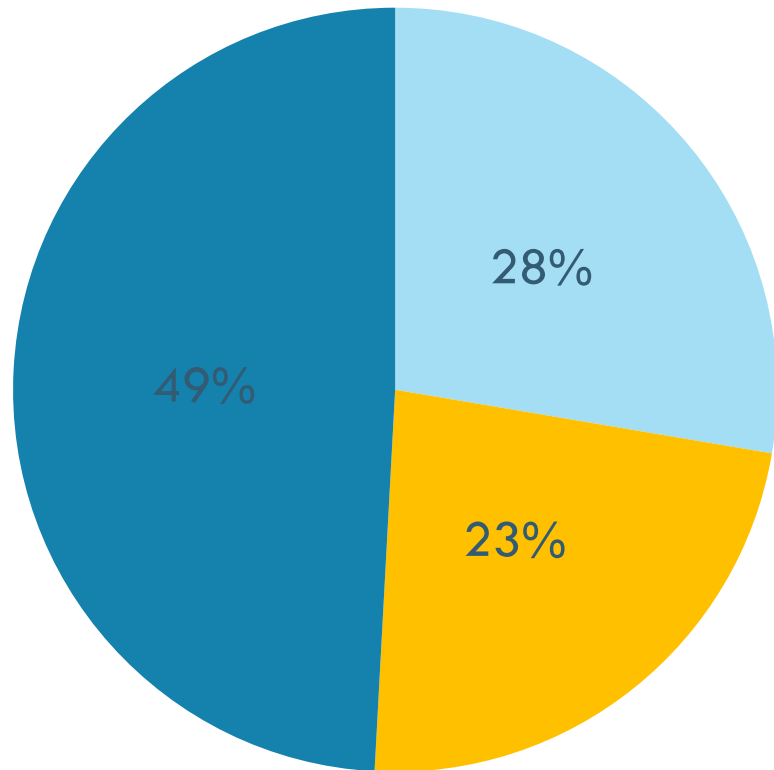
■ Dismissed or Withdrawn

■ Diversion Complete

■ Delinquency Adjudicated

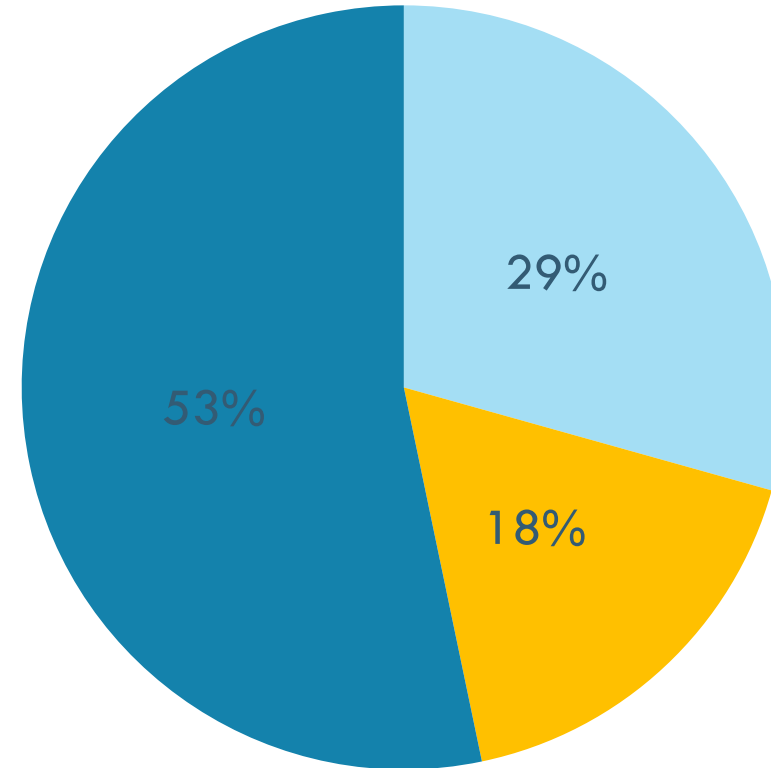
OUTCOMES FOR 18 AND 19 YEAR OLDS

18-year-olds



■ Dismissed or Withdrawn ■ Diversion Completed
■ Convicted non-Big 12

19-year-olds



■ Dismissed or Withdrawn ■ Diversion Complete
■ Convicted non-Big-12

FINE ONLY SENTENCES FOR 18/19-YEAR-OLDS

“Fine Only” is the most common sentence in the criminal division for 18 and 19-year olds

- ❑ For 18-year-olds: 43% of non big 12 sentences were “fine only” in FY 17 and FY 18
- ❑ For 19-year-olds: 45%

UNDERSTANDING DCF CAPACITY: MINIMIZING IMPACT ON CHILD PROTECTION

DCF Family Services Division handles Child Protection, Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Probation.

- Using best practice recommendations for juvenile probation reform, DCF is analyzing its approach to supervising youth on probation, specifically:
 - Streamlining services
 - Enhancing term limits
 - Strengthening Risk-Need-Responsivity



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY JUSTICE LAB

Vermont is contracting with the Justice Lab to map out an operations plan that builds upon the strength of the juvenile justice stakeholder collaboration and takes into account:

Robust diversion (pre-charge and pre-arrest) of youth/emerging adults who are low-moderate risk from the system;

The role of informal and formal community-based restorative justice;

Gaps in programming;

Geographic discontinuity;

The appropriate allocation of resources across the system;

Reserving most significant service/supervision for youth who are the highest risk to re-offend;

Training and support; and

Other policy changes to support this transformative change.