

# Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: Some Trends You Should Know

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Chaz Puzzanchera  
Marly Zeigler  
National Center for Juvenile Justice

Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice  
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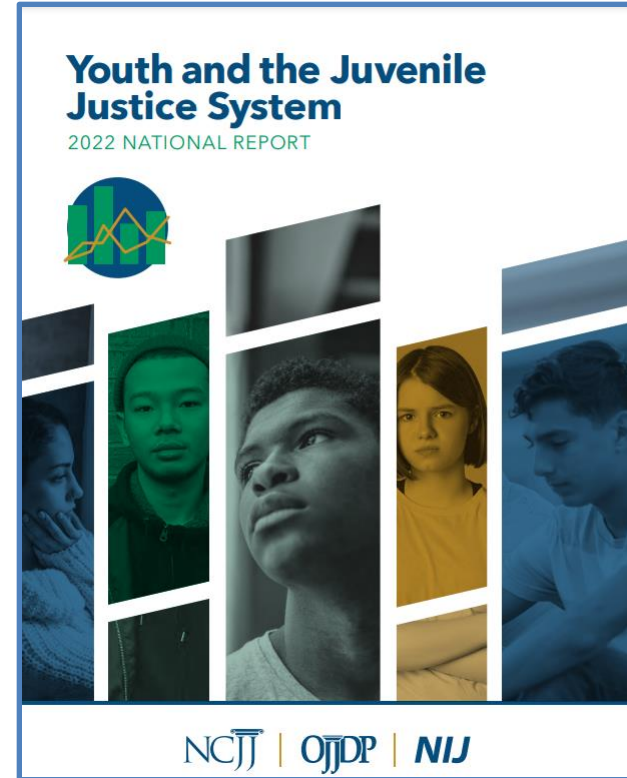
# National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program

- Supported by a cooperative agreement awarded by NIJ with funding support from OJJDP.
- The project draws on various national data sets to develop publications and online resources to make juvenile justice data easily accessible to the field and the general public.
- Provides important data/information on youth and the juvenile justice system (e.g., well-being and risk behaviors, victimization of and offending by youth, and the juvenile justice system's response to law-violating behavior).

*Disclaimer: Points of view do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of OJJDP, NIJ, or the U.S. Dept of Justice.*

# Our latest National Report: *A cornucopia of data on youth and the juvenile justice system*

The report covers a lot of ground about youth and their involvement with the juvenile justice system: poverty, depression, victimization experiences, self-report behaviors, arrests, juvenile court processing, and youth in corrections

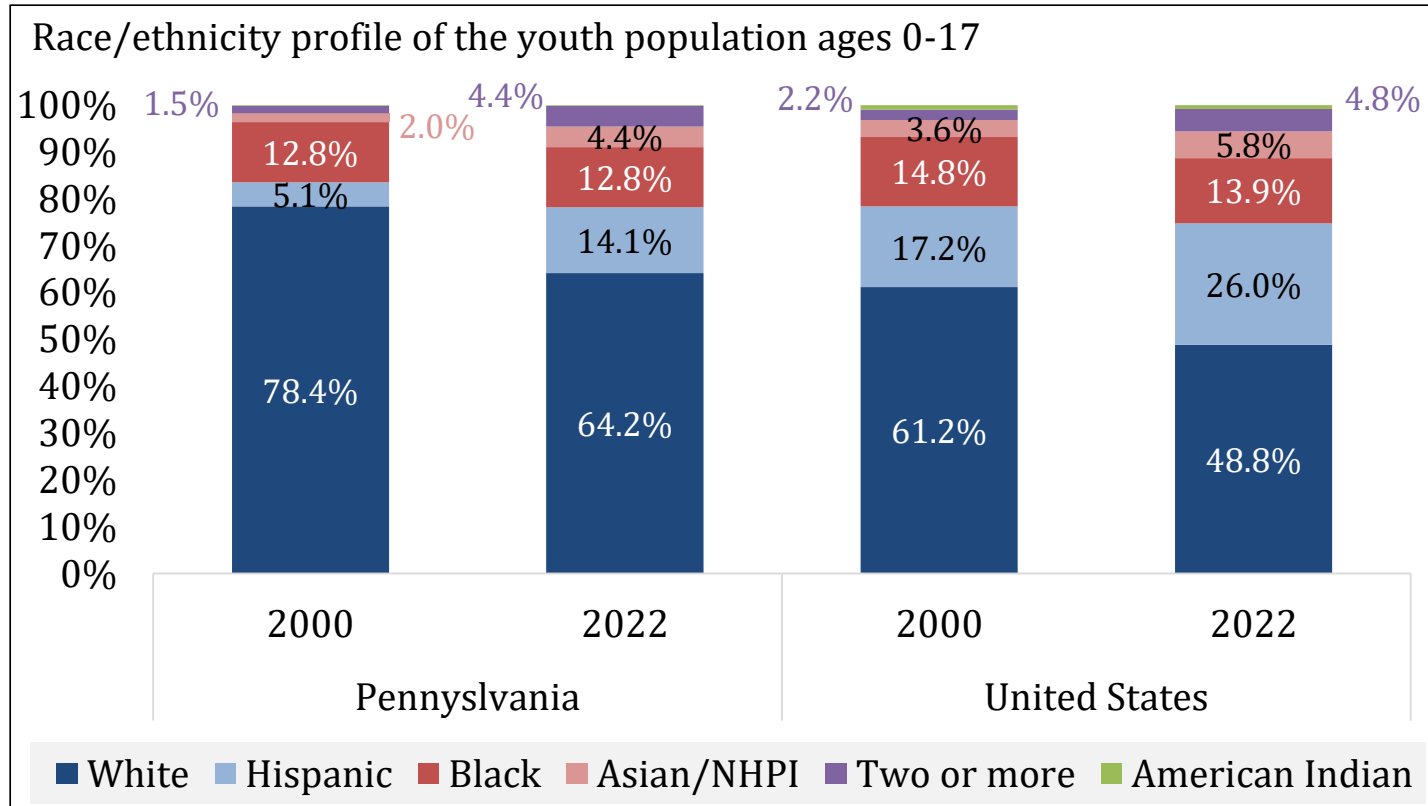


# Topic 1

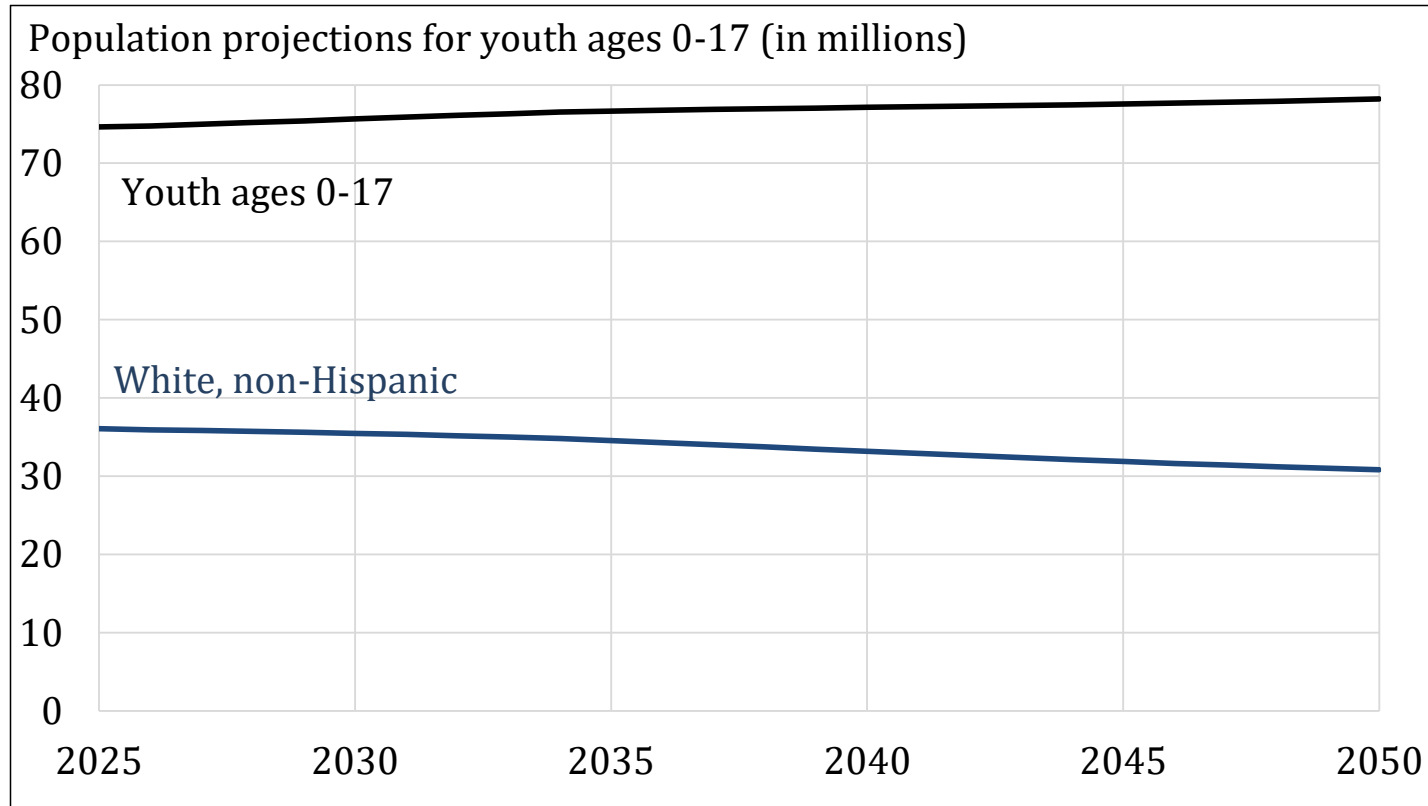
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The demographic profile of the youth population has changed – and it will continue

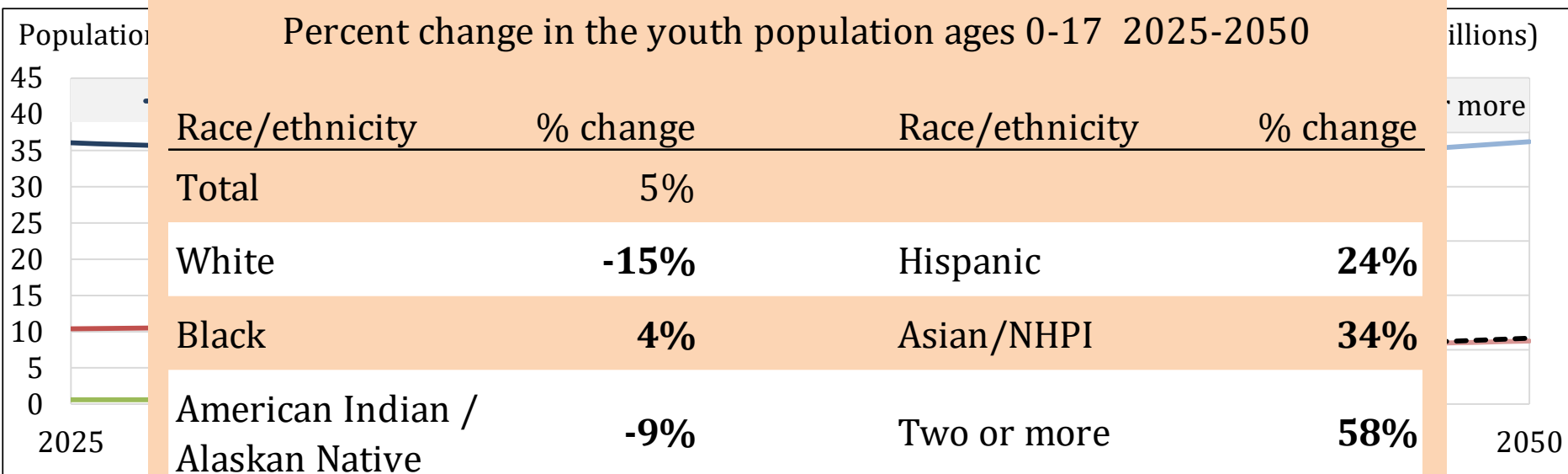
# The race/ethnicity profile of the youth population changed considerably since 2000



# The overall youth population will increase 5% through 2050 but will decline 15% for white youth

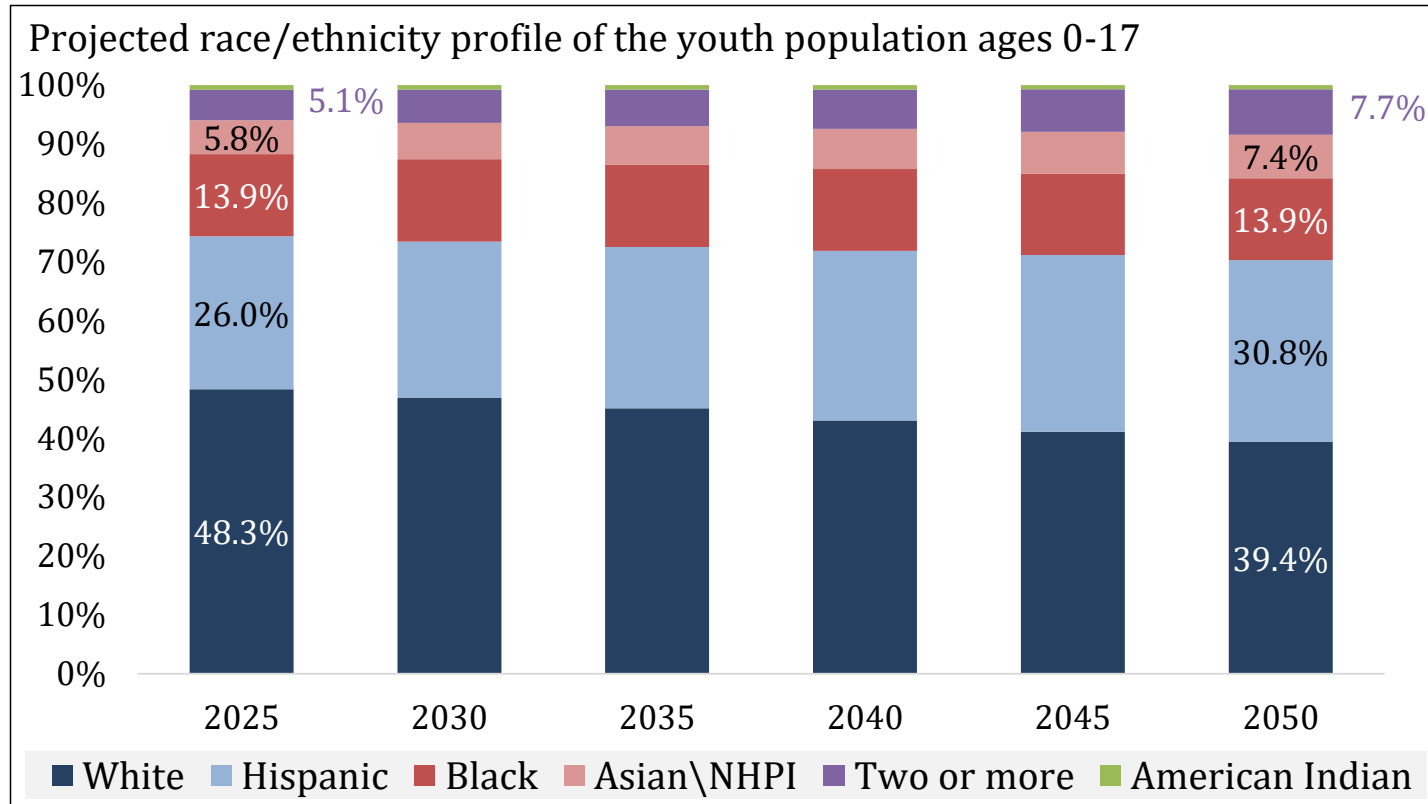


# Projected population changes vary by race/ethnicity



Note: Race groups are “alone” and exclude youth of Hispanic ethnicity

# By 2050, Hispanic youth will account for nearly one-third of the youth population





# Topic 2

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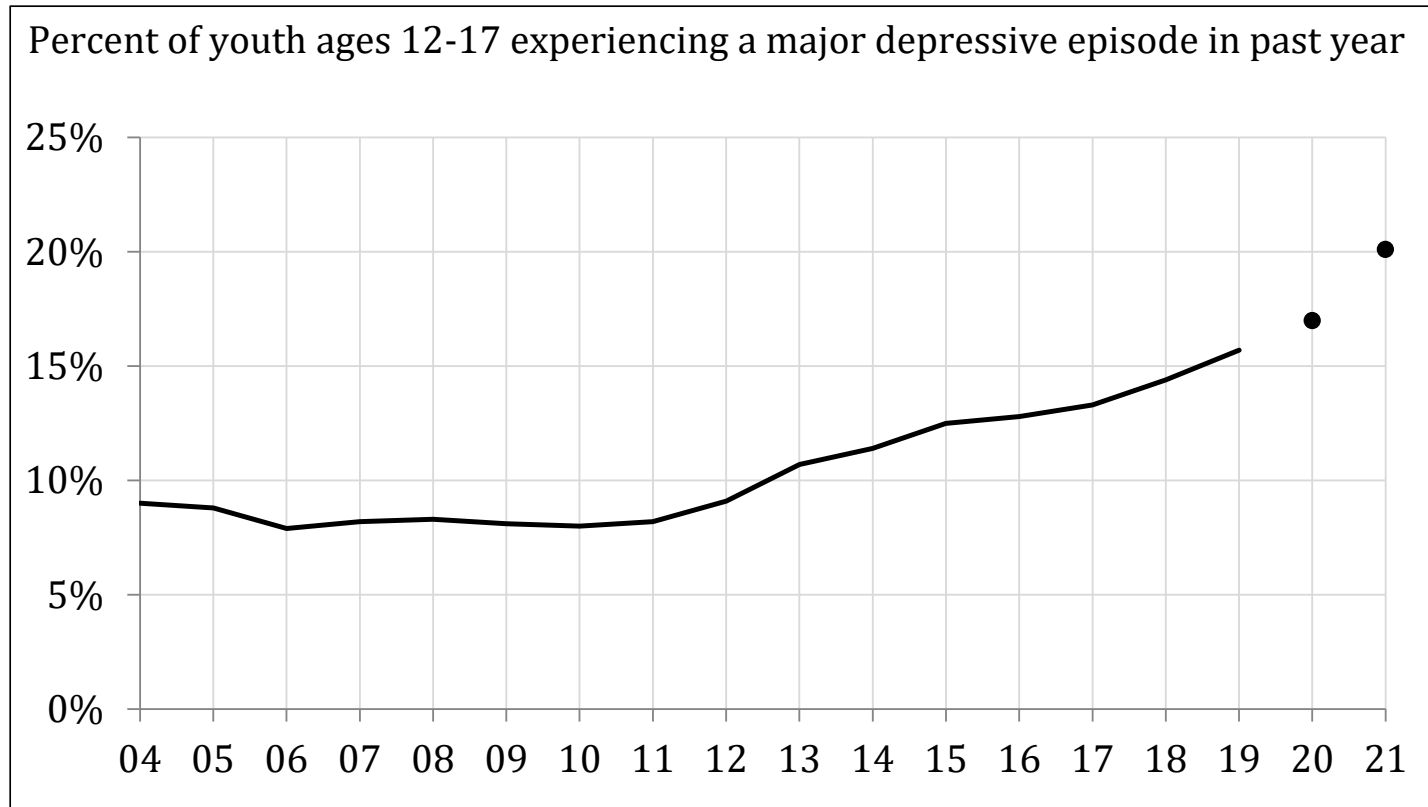
A growing proportion of youth report experiencing episodes of depression

# How the National Survey on Drug Use and Health defines “major depressive episode”

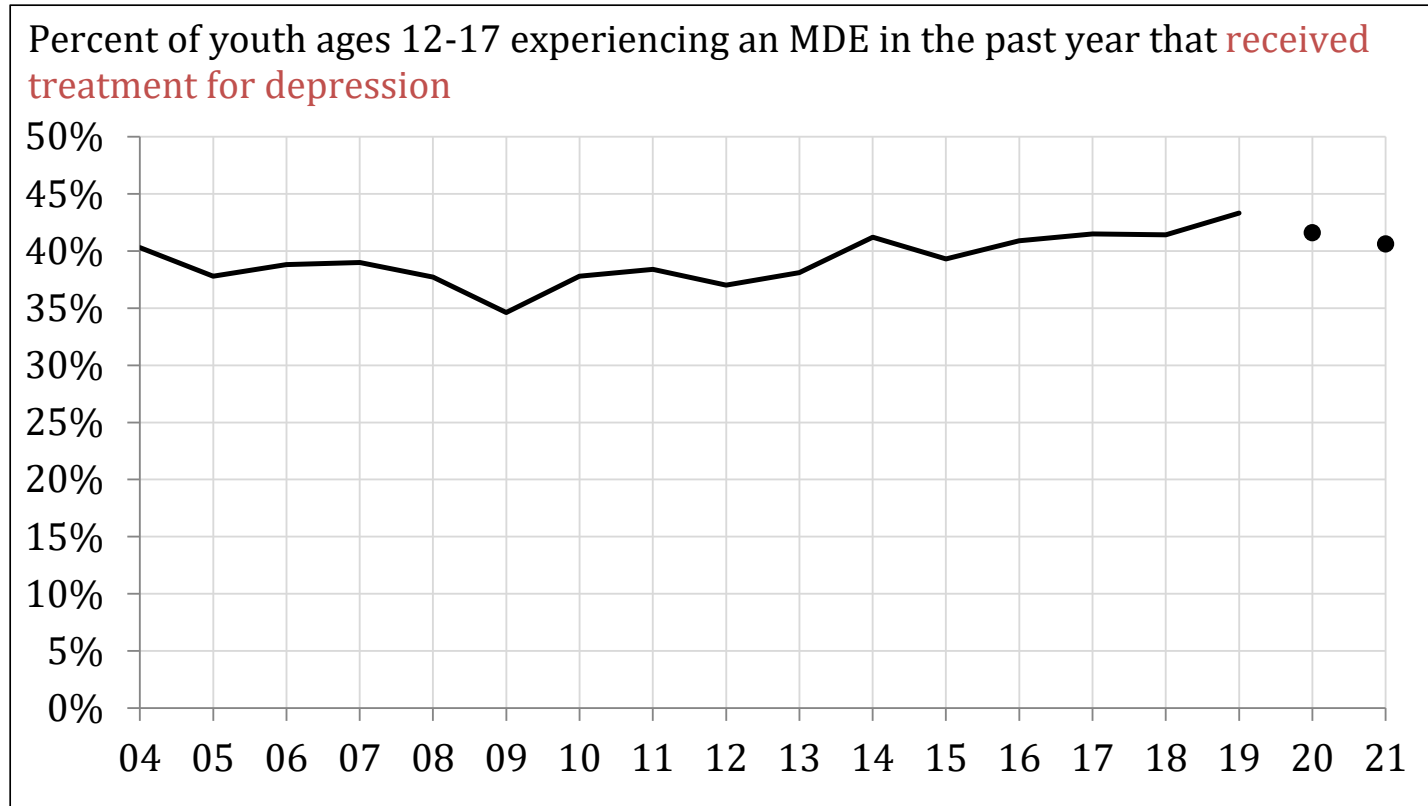
**Major depressive episode (MDE):** a period of **at least 2 weeks** during which a person experiences - for most of the day nearly every day - **a depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure in daily activities**, plus at least **4 additional symptoms of depression** (e.g., problems with sleep, eating, energy, concentration, and feelings of self-worth).

*Adapted from: Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*

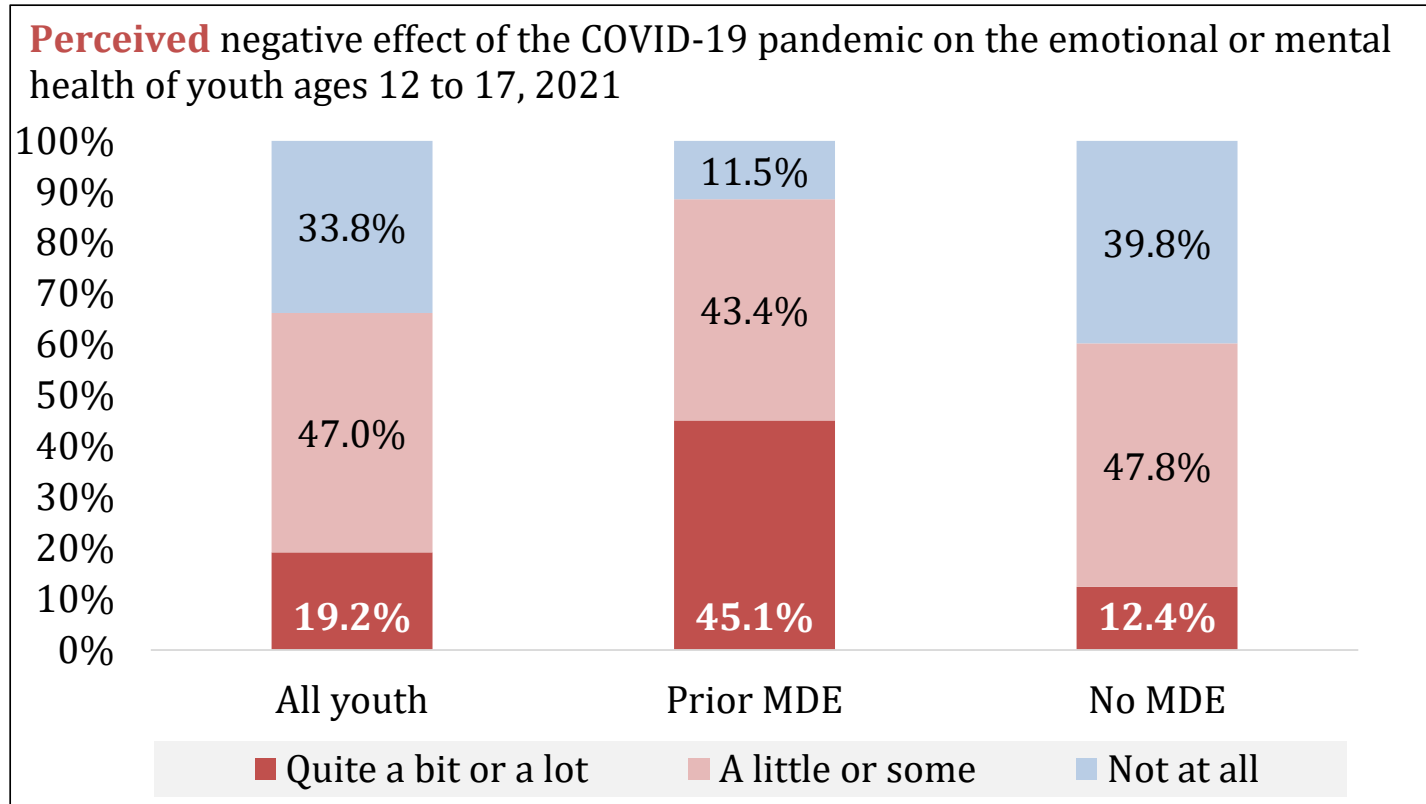
# In 2021, 1 in 5 youth experienced an MDE at least once in the prior 12 months



# About 4 in 10 youth that experienced an MDE received treatment for depression



# The perceived negative effect of the pandemic was greater for youth that experienced an MDE in the past year



# Topic 3

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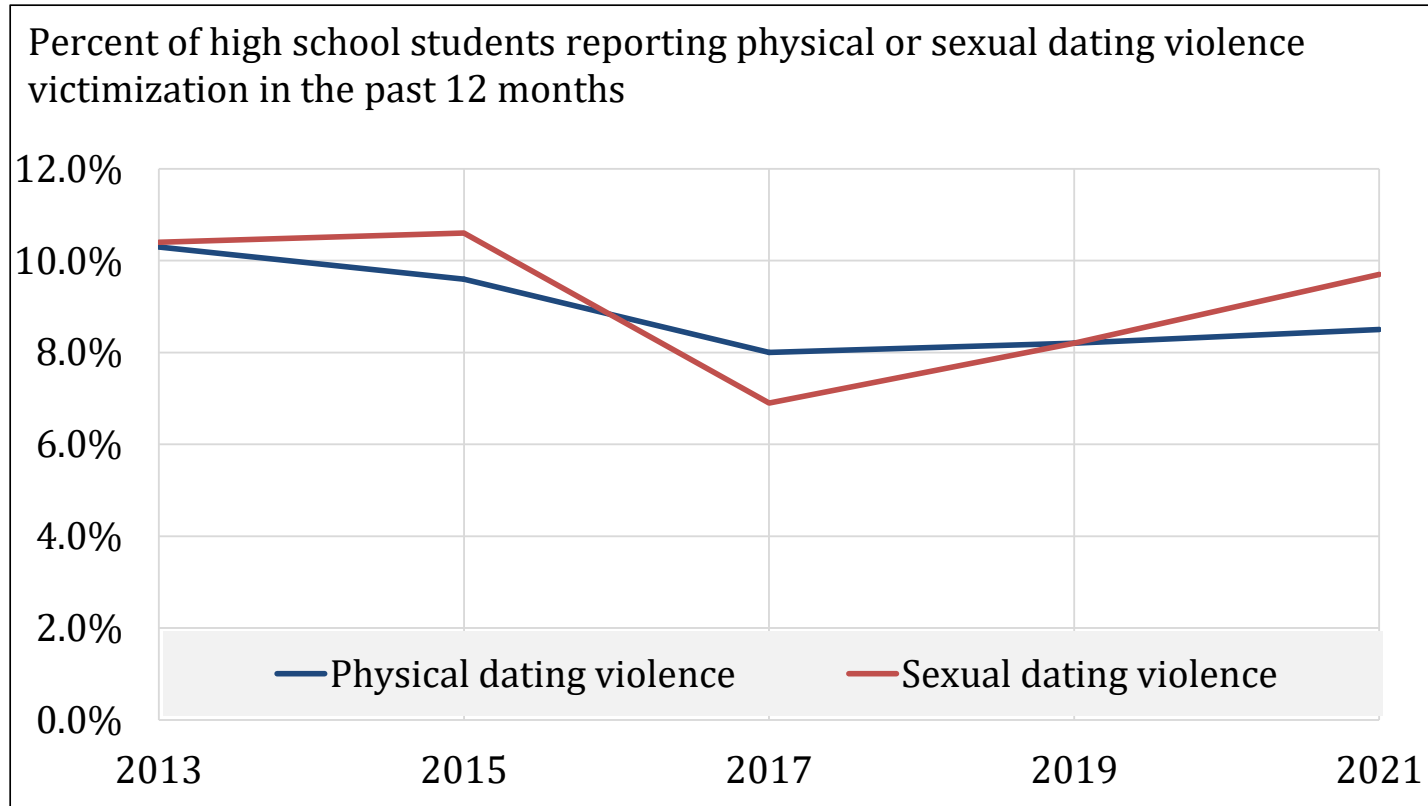
High school dating violence  
victimization varies by gender  
and sexual identity

# How the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) addresses teen dating violence

**Physical dating violence:** being physically hurt on purpose (such as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon) by someone they were dating or going out with. Reference period is the 12 months prior to the survey.

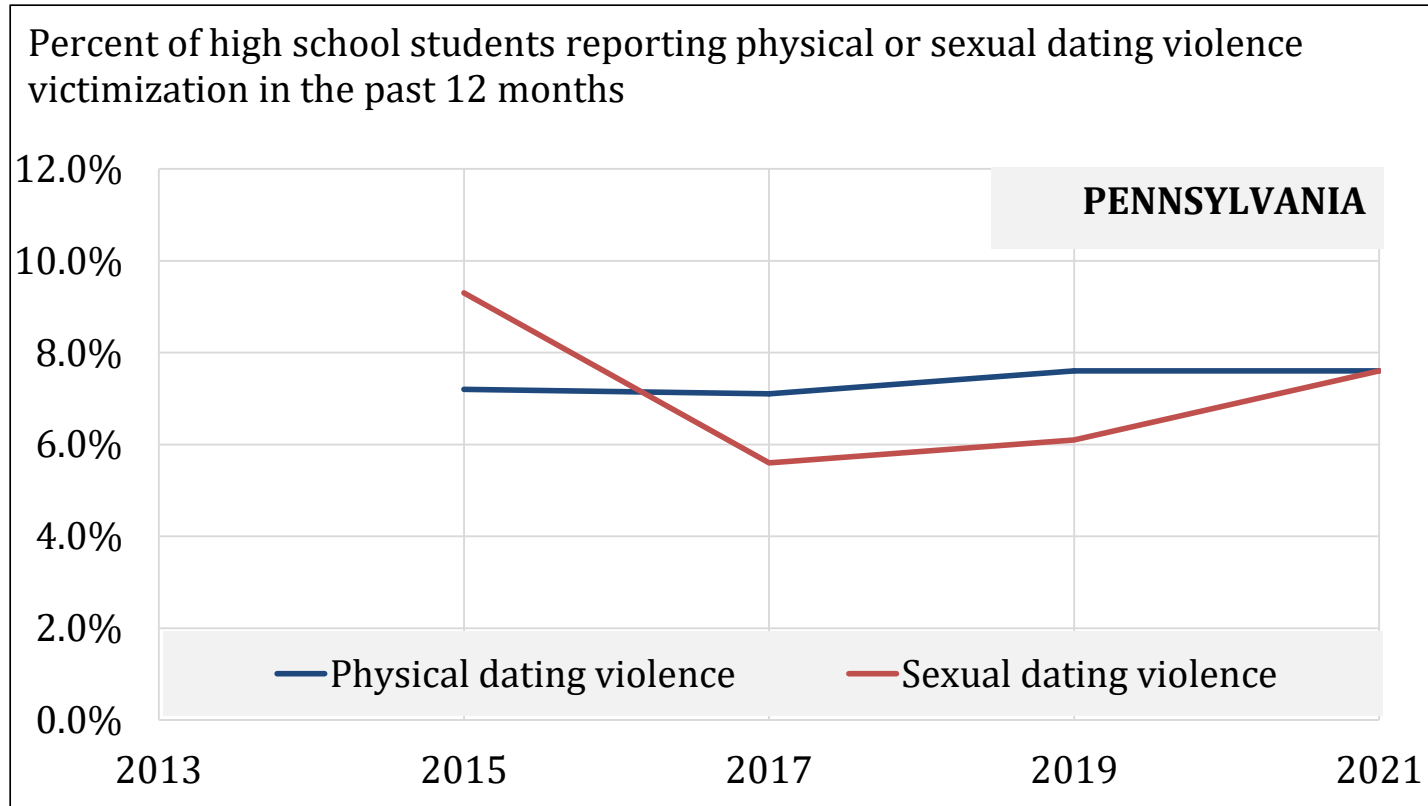
**Sexual dating violence:** being forced to do sexual acts (such as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse) that they did not want to, by someone they were dating or going out with. Reference period is the 12 months prior to the survey.

# The proportion of high school students reporting physical or sexual dating violence has stayed within a limited range



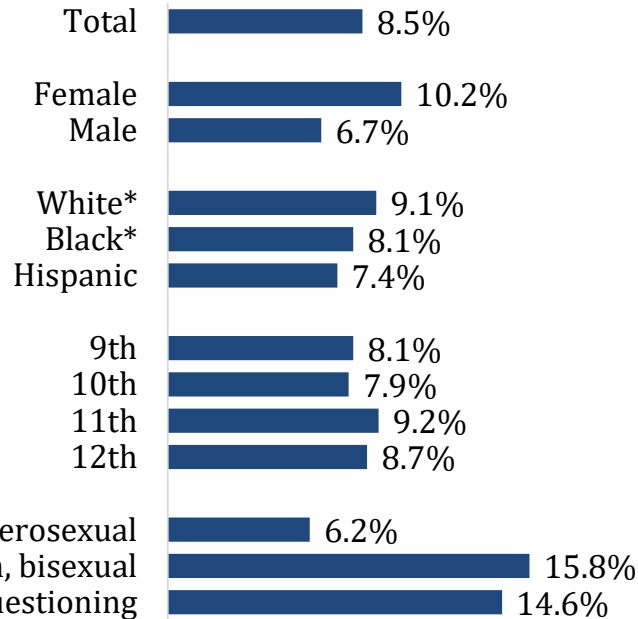


# The Pennsylvania pattern mirrors the national pattern

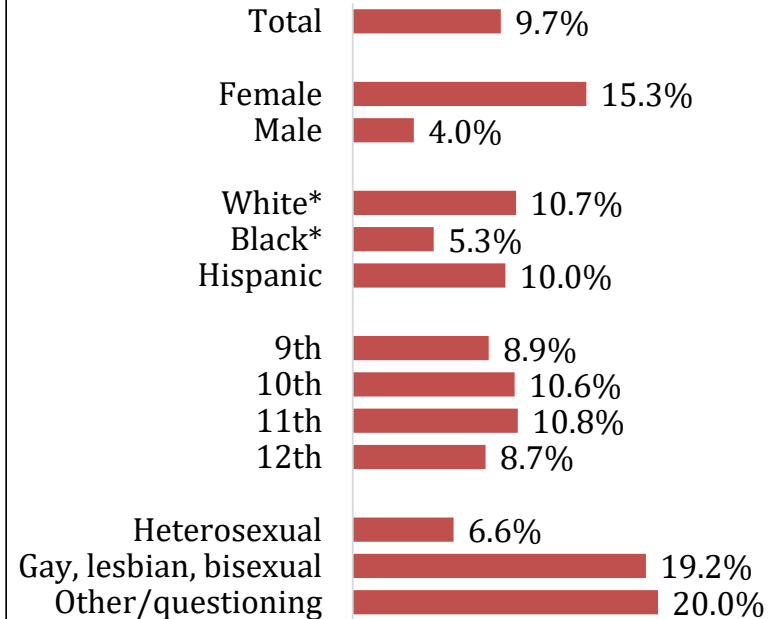


# Nationally, less than 1 in 12 high school students reported physical or sexual dating violence in 2021

Percent of high school students who reported **physical dating** violence, 2021

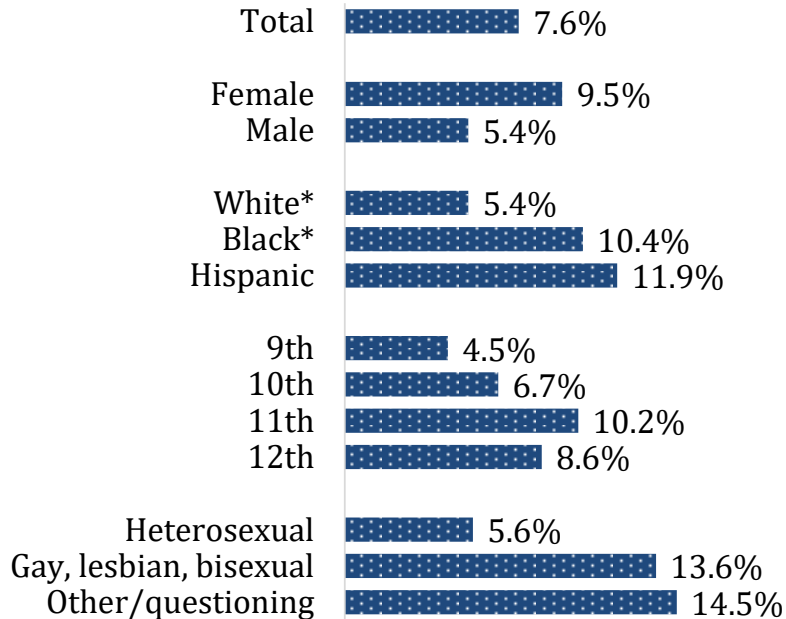


Percent of high school students who reported **sexual dating** violence, 2021

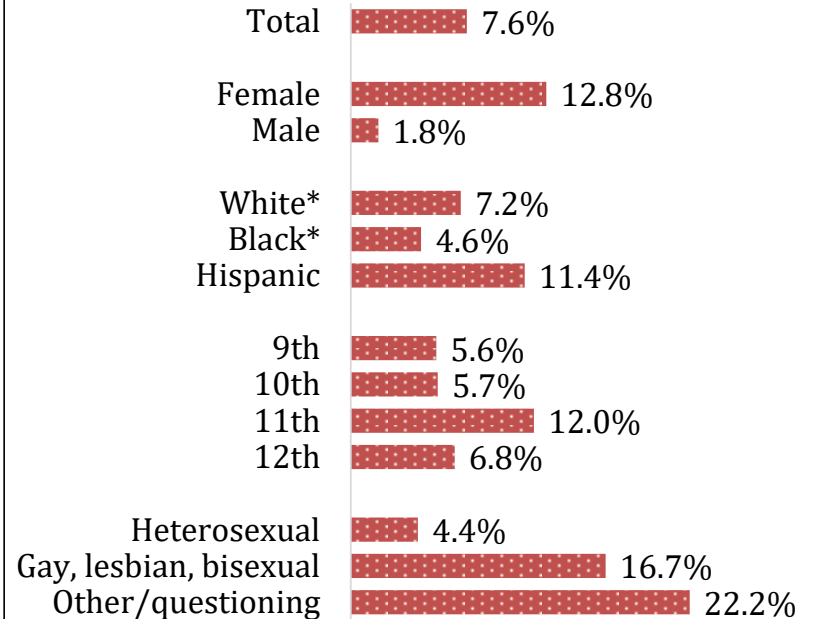


# About 1 in 13 high school students in Pennsylvania reported physical or sexual dating violence in 2021

Percent of high school students in Pennsylvania who reported **physical dating** violence, 2021



Percent of high school students in Pennsylvania who reported **sexual dating** violence, 2021

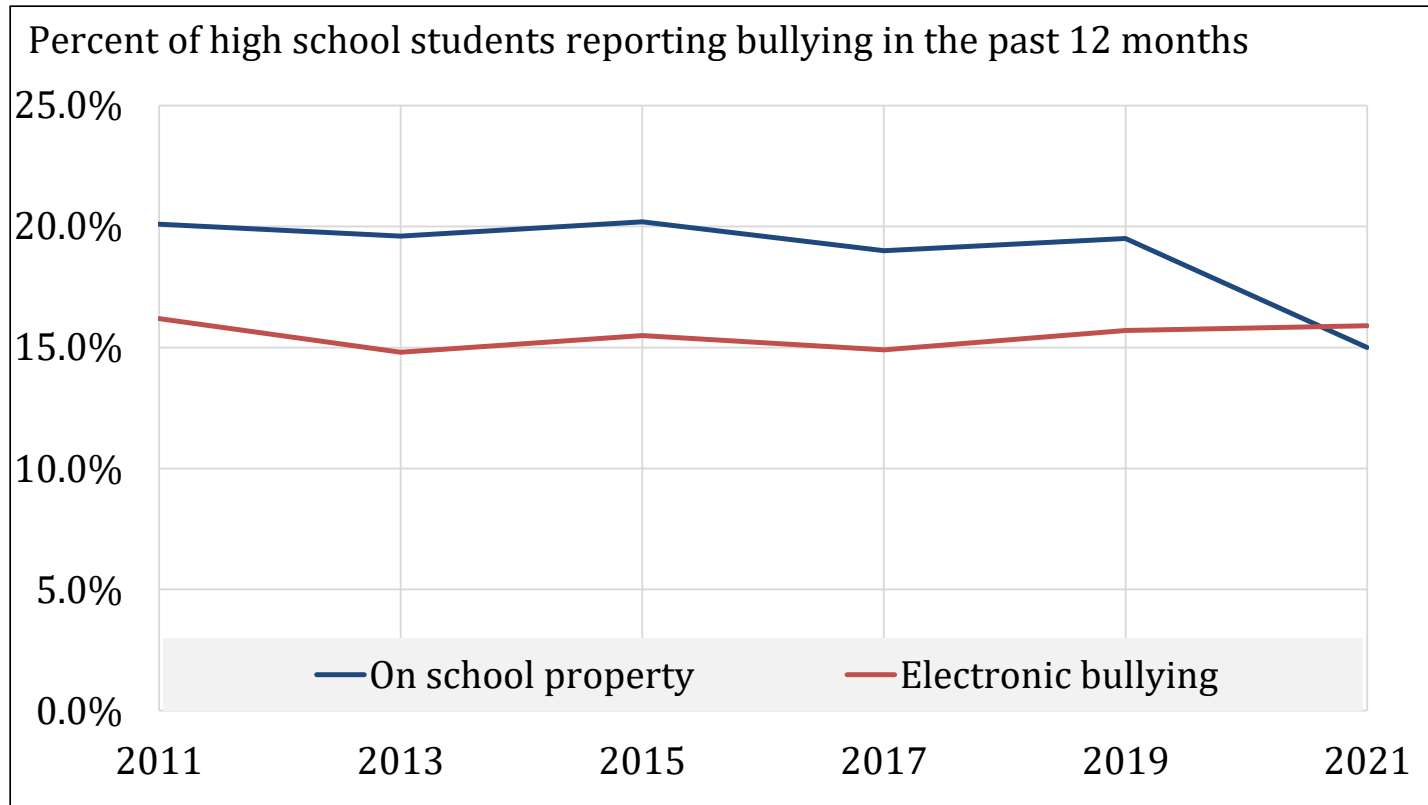


# Topic 4

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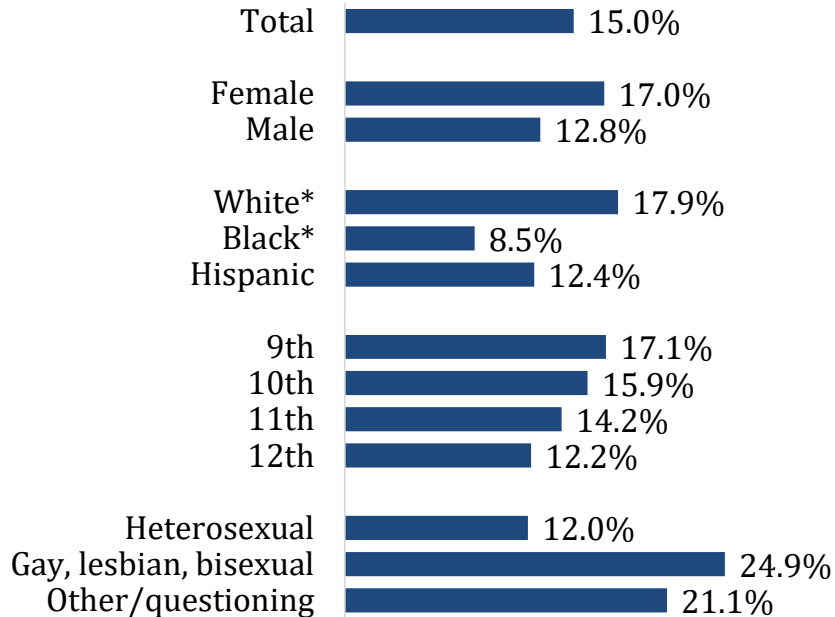
Bullying victimization among high school students varies by gender and sexual identity

# Nationally, the proportion of high school students experiencing bullying has changed little

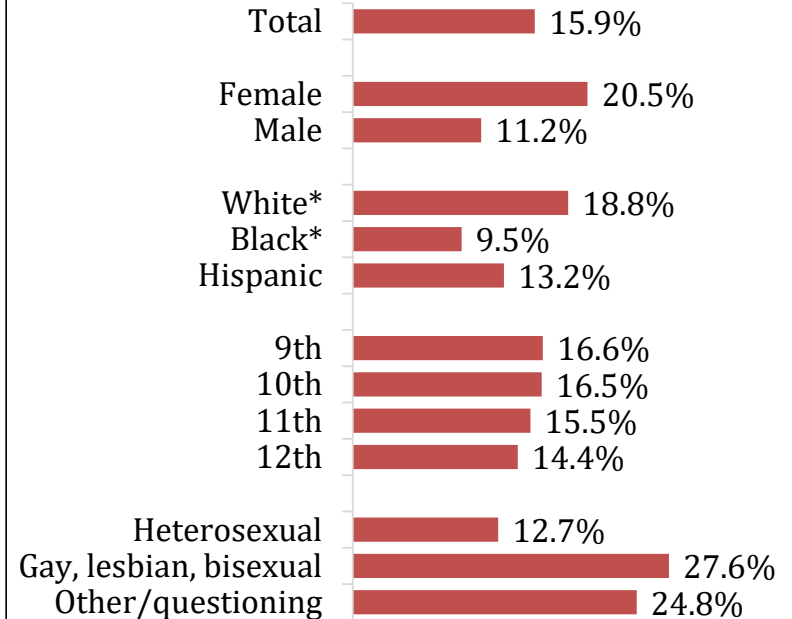


# In 2021, about 1 in 8 high school students experienced a form of bullying

Percent of high school students who were bullied on school property, 2021



Percent of high school students who were electronically bullied, 2021

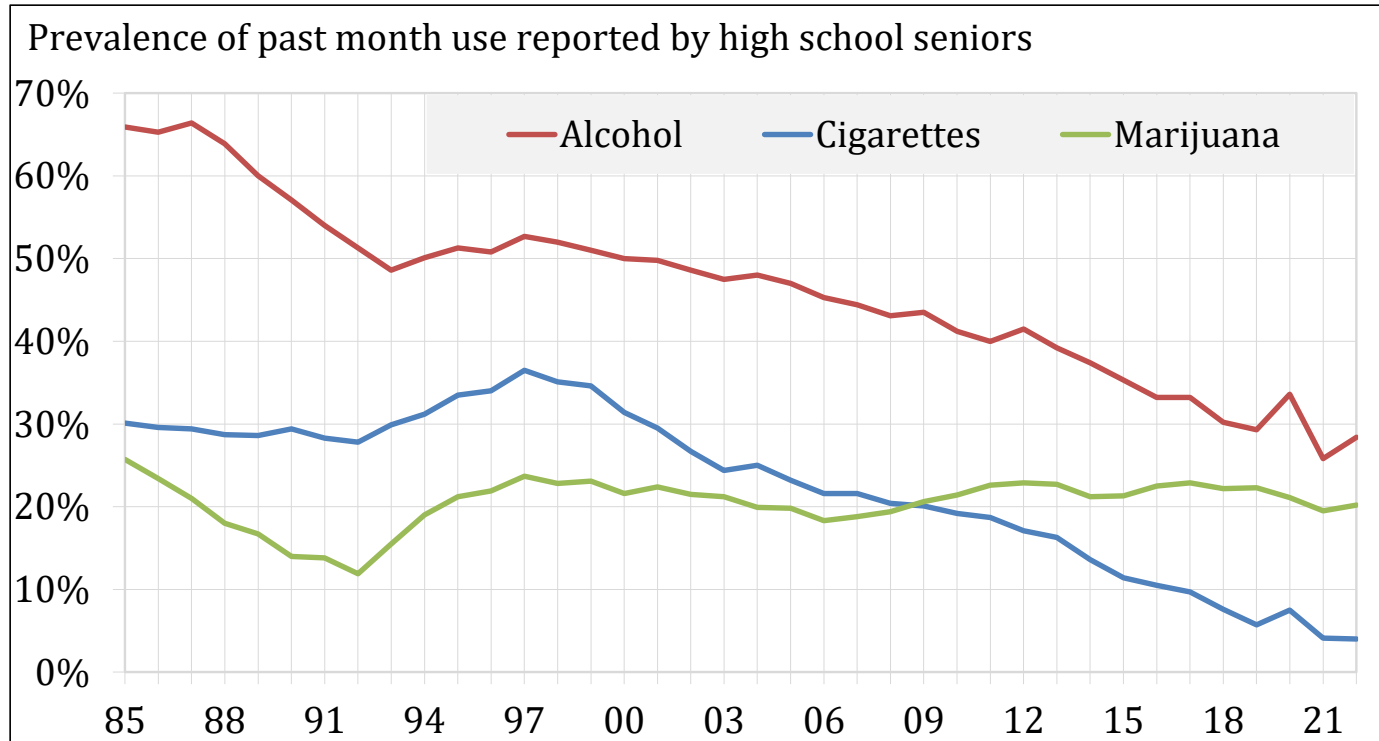


# Topic 5

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Substance use reported by youth has changed

# Alcohol and cigarette use among high school seniors has declined since the late 1990s

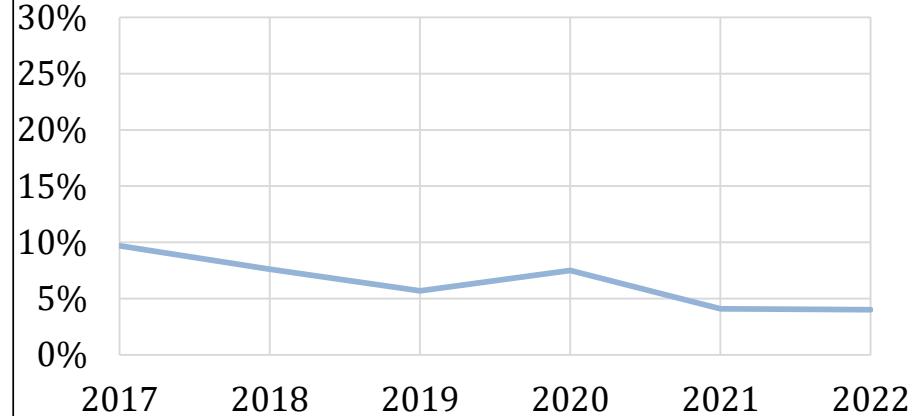




# Cigarette use by high school seniors has been cut in half since 2017

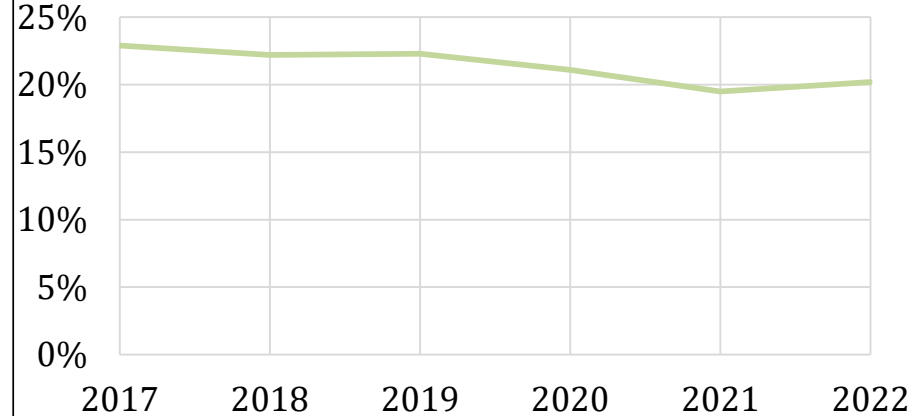
## Cigarette use

Percent of seniors reporting use in the past month



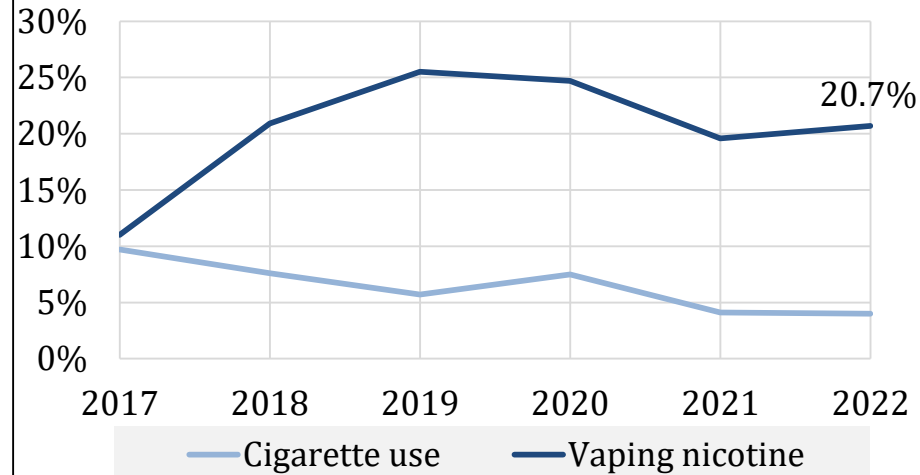
## Marijuana use

Percent of seniors reporting use in the past month

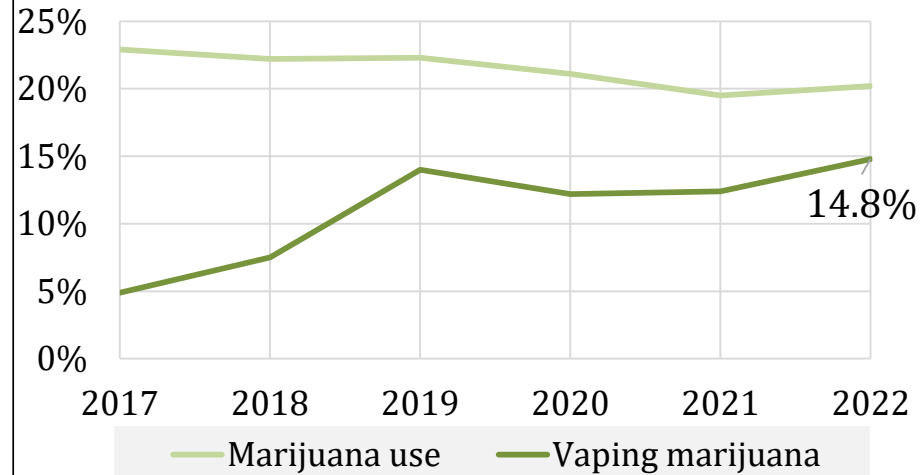


# But there has been a rise in vaping of nicotine and marijuana

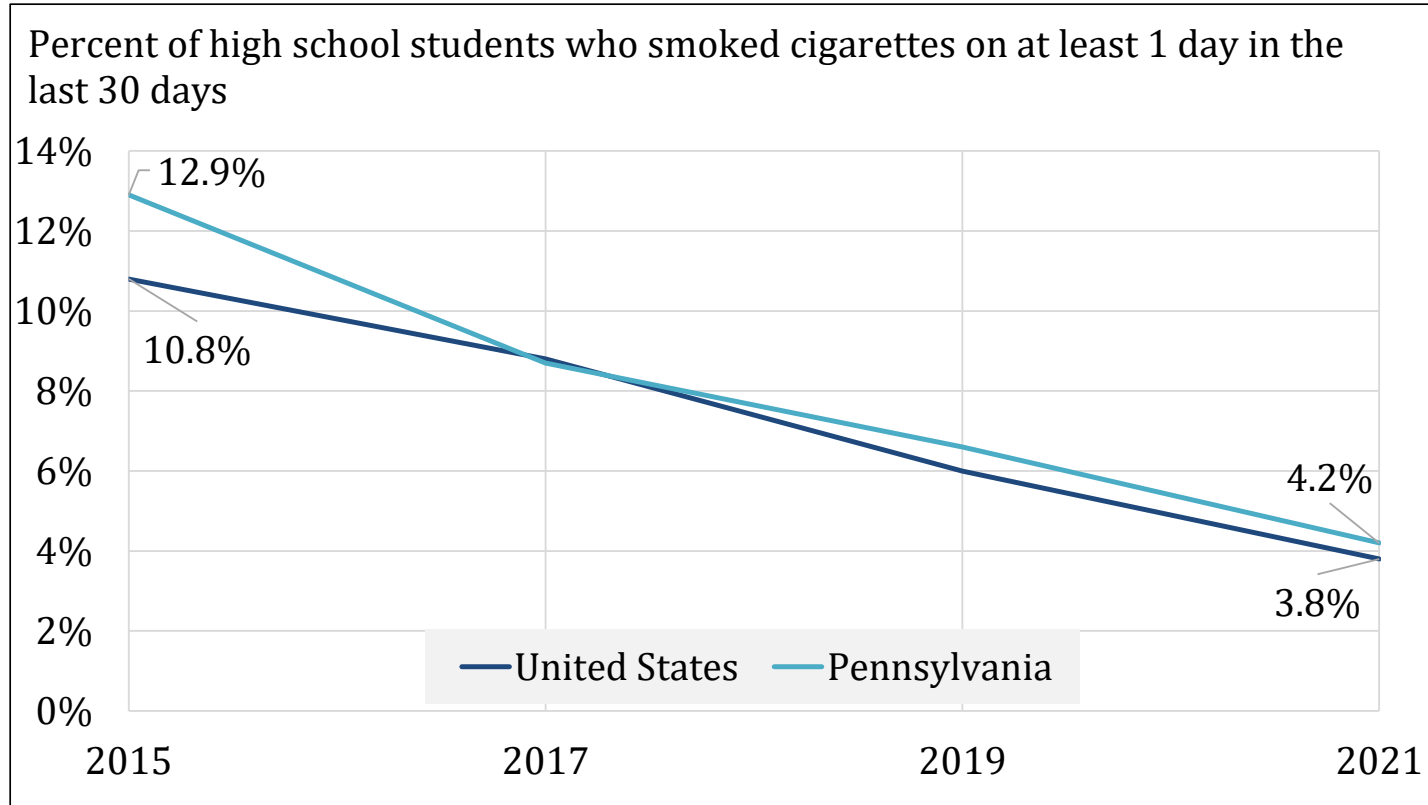
Percent of seniors reporting use in the past month



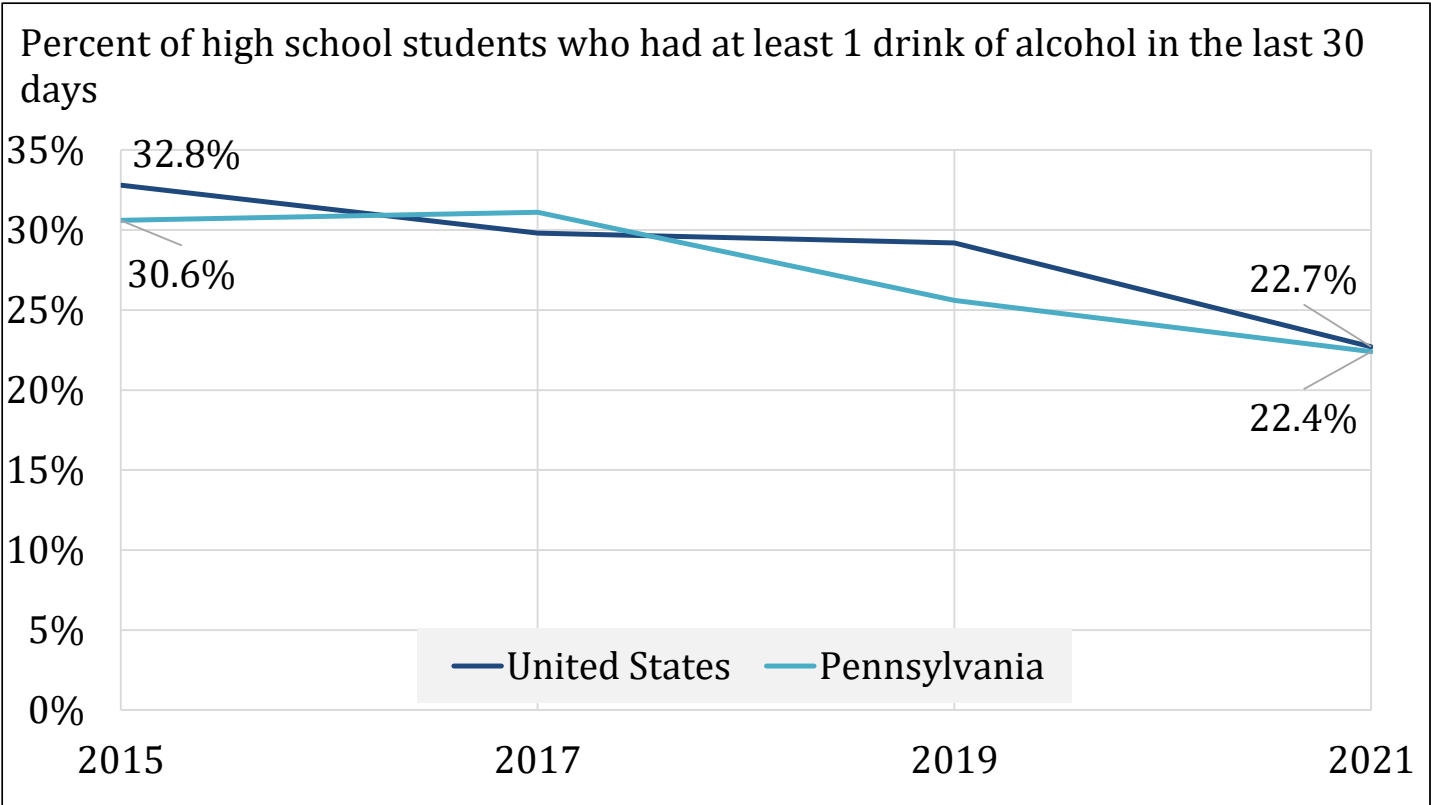
Percent of seniors reporting use in the past month



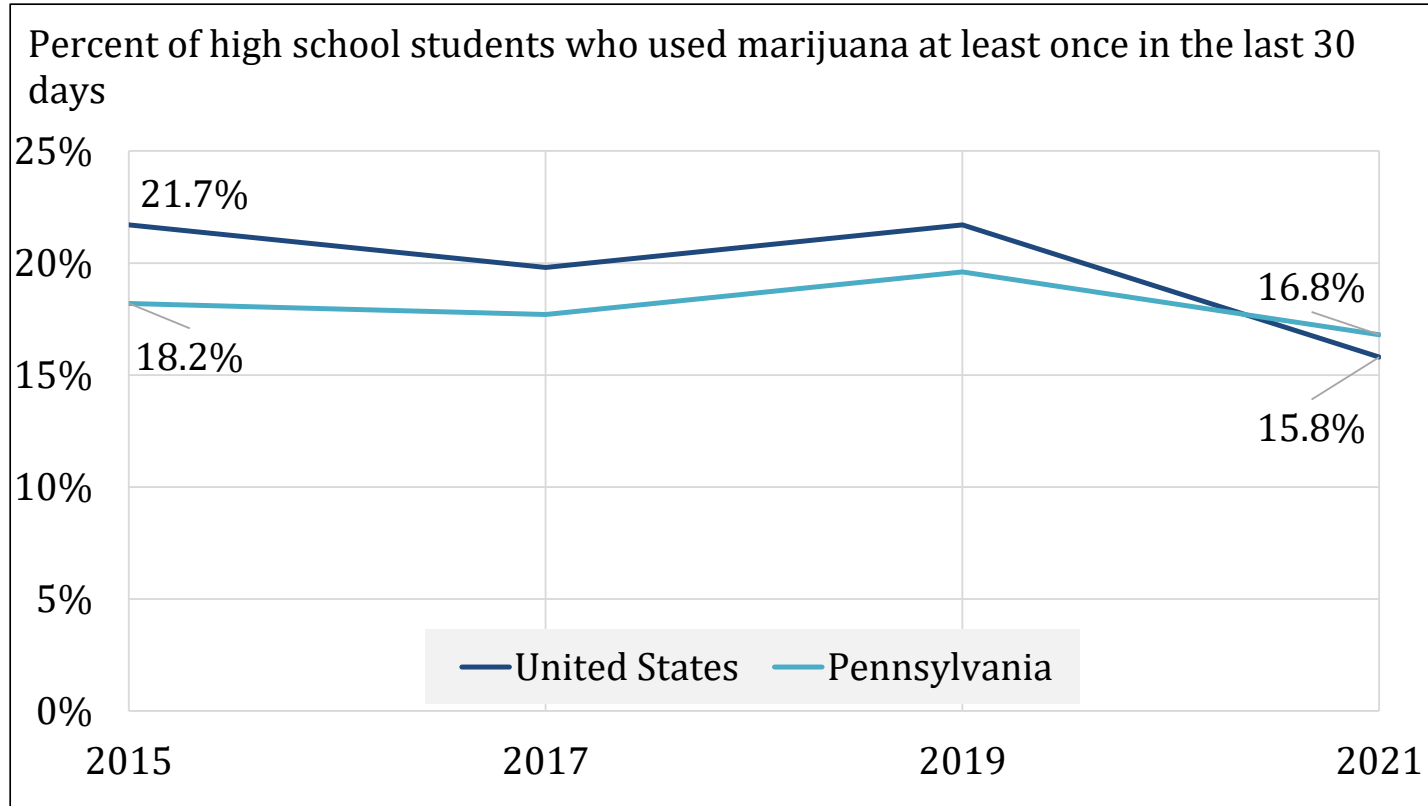
# Like the national trend, cigarette use by Pennsylvania high school students has declined



# Ditto for alcohol



# And marijuana

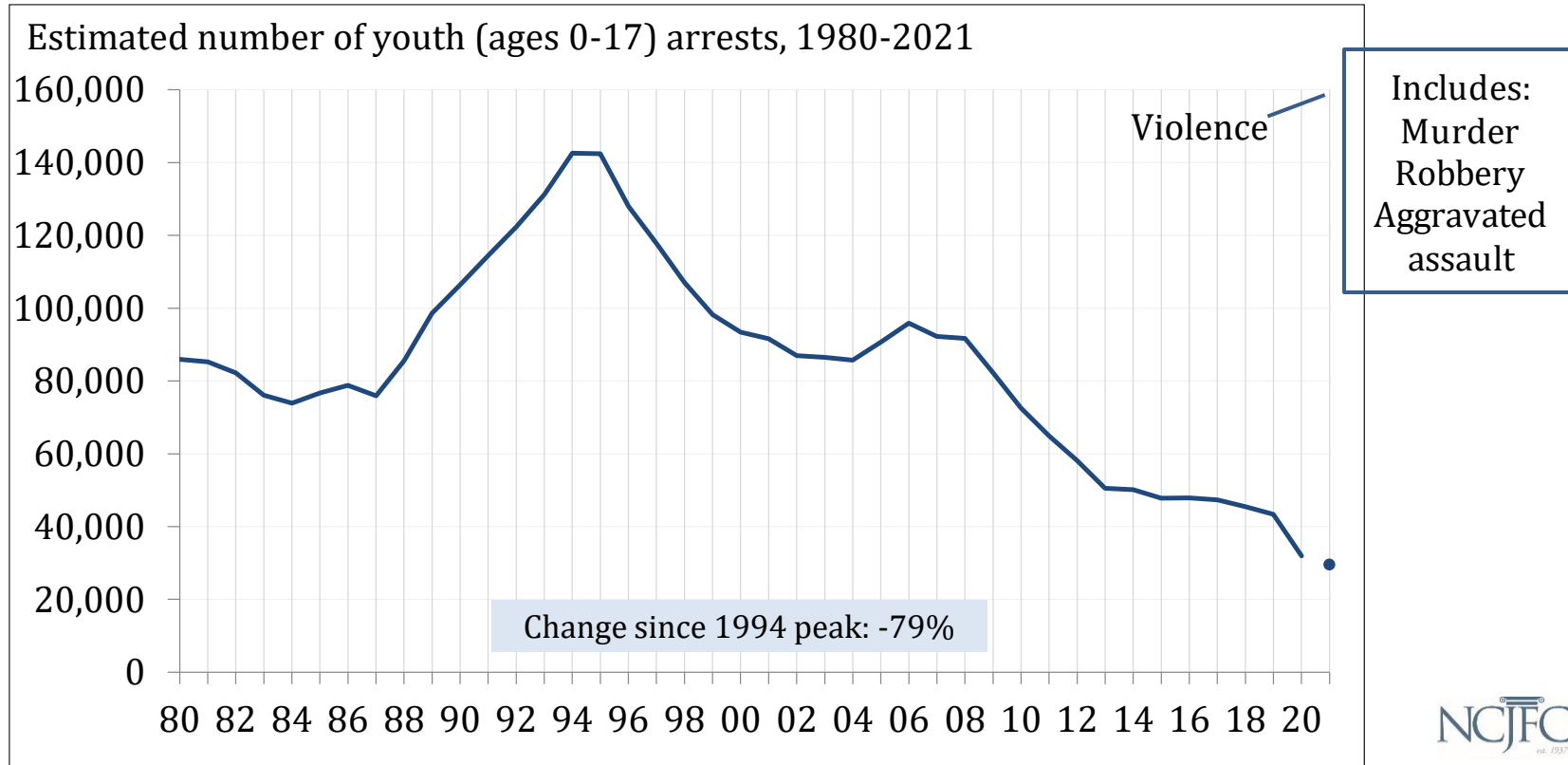


# Topic 6

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Violent crime by youth is at or near historically low levels

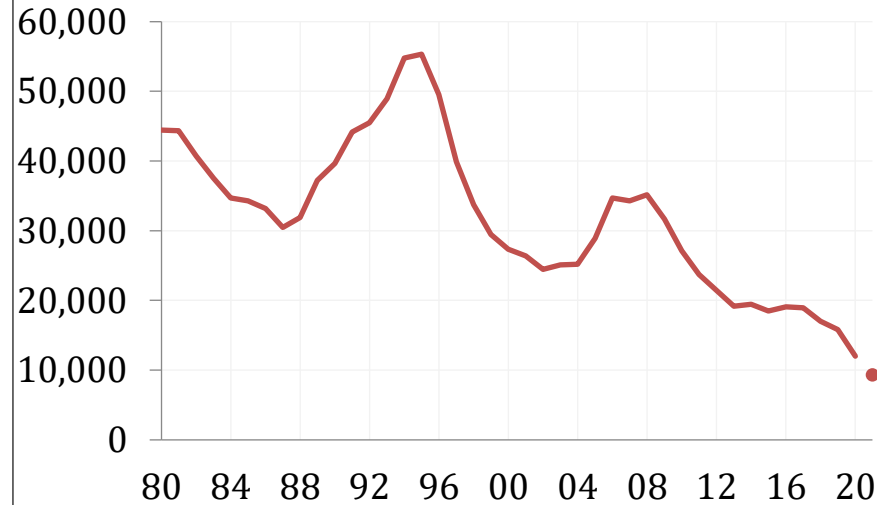
# The number of arrests of youth for violent crimes has declined since the mid-2000s



# Youth arrests for robbery & aggravated assault are well below their prior peaks

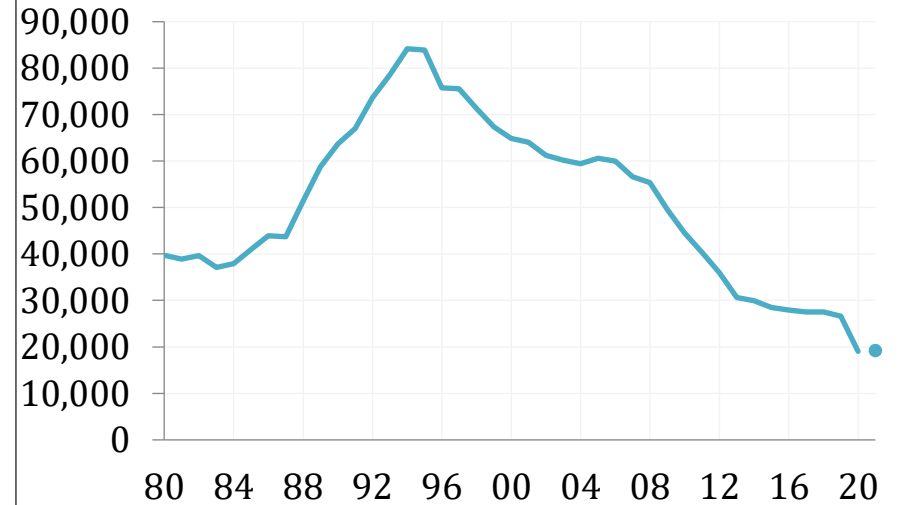
## Robbery

Estimated number of youth (ages 0-17) arrests



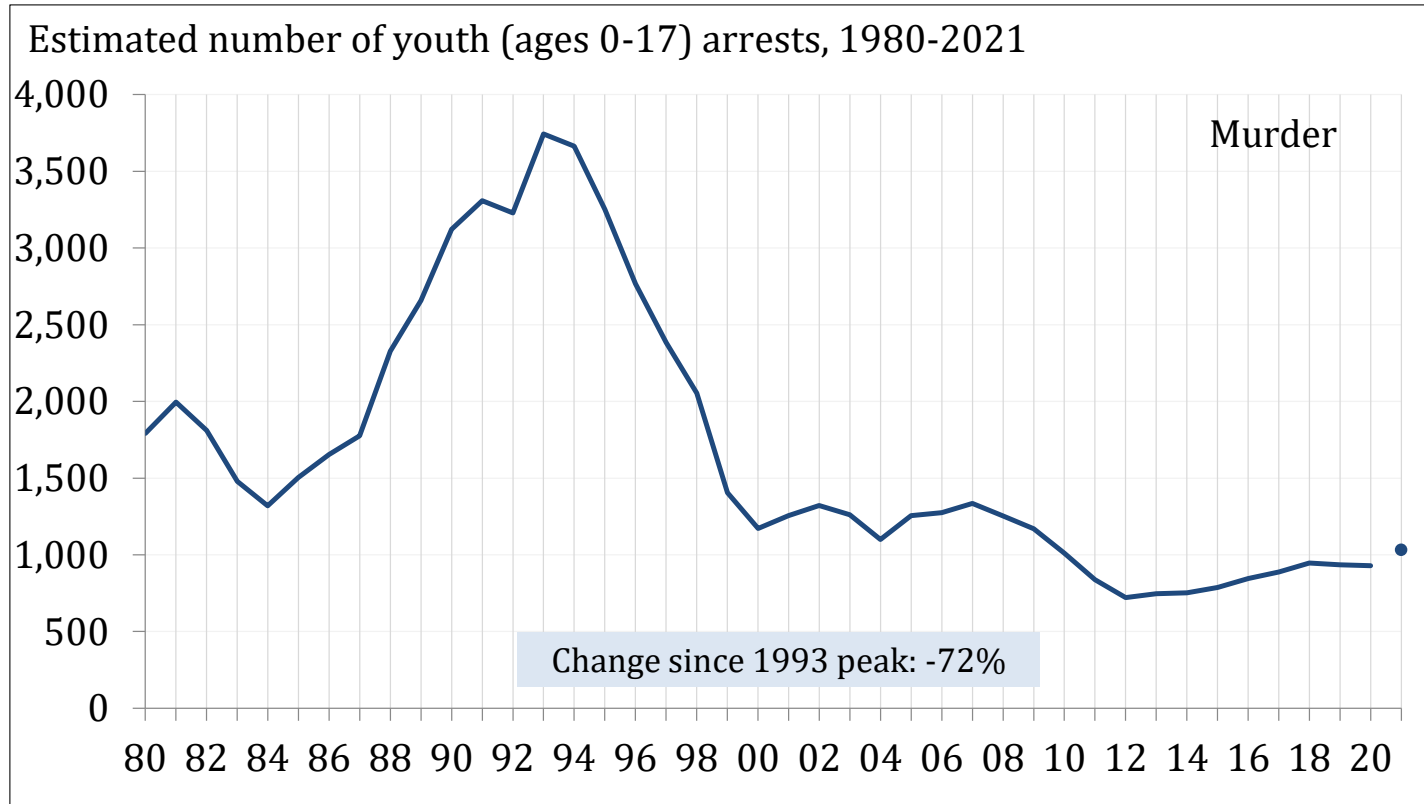
## Aggravated assault

Estimated number of youth (ages 0-17) arrests

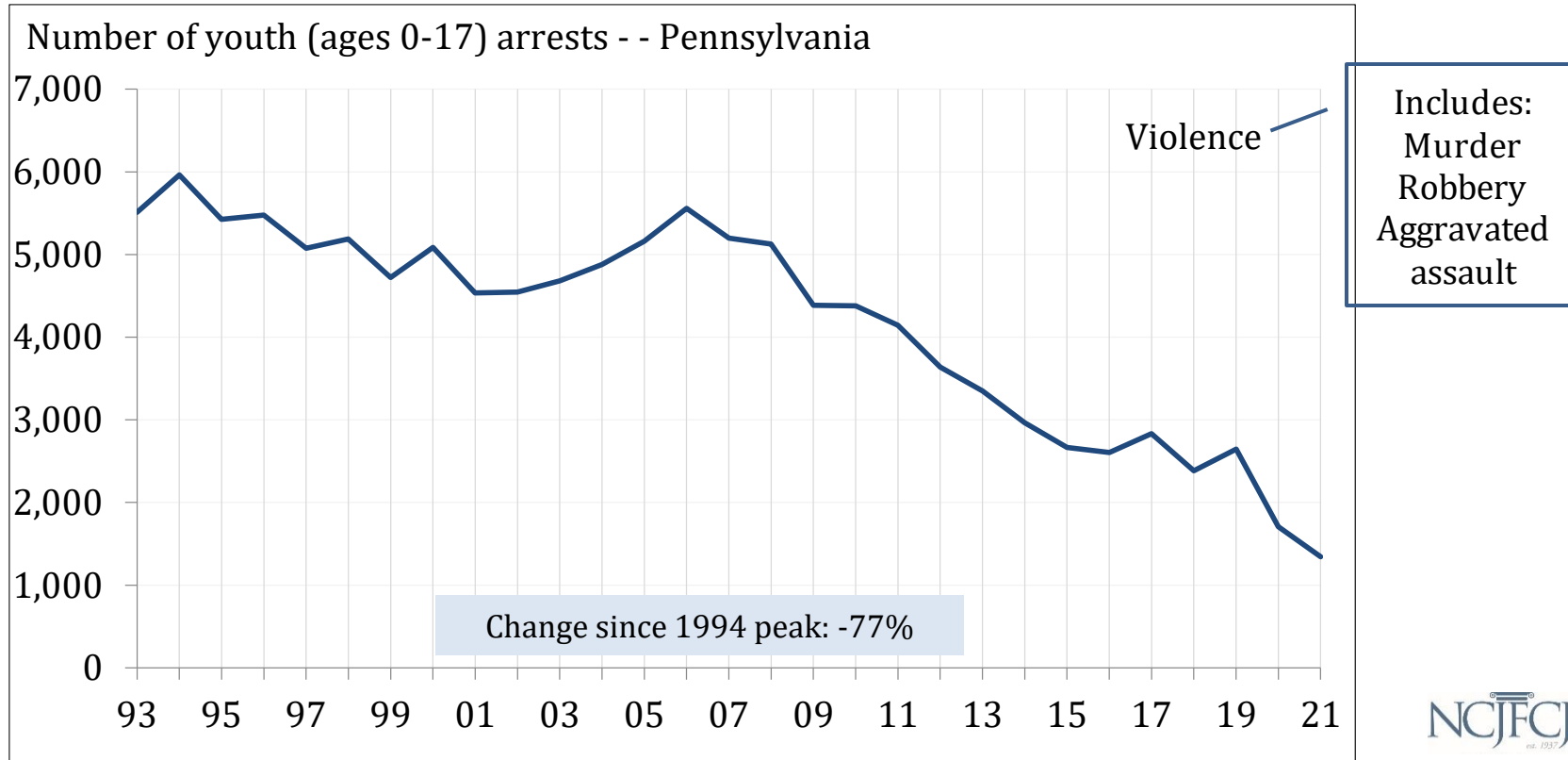




# Arrests of youth for murder have increased recently, but remain relatively low

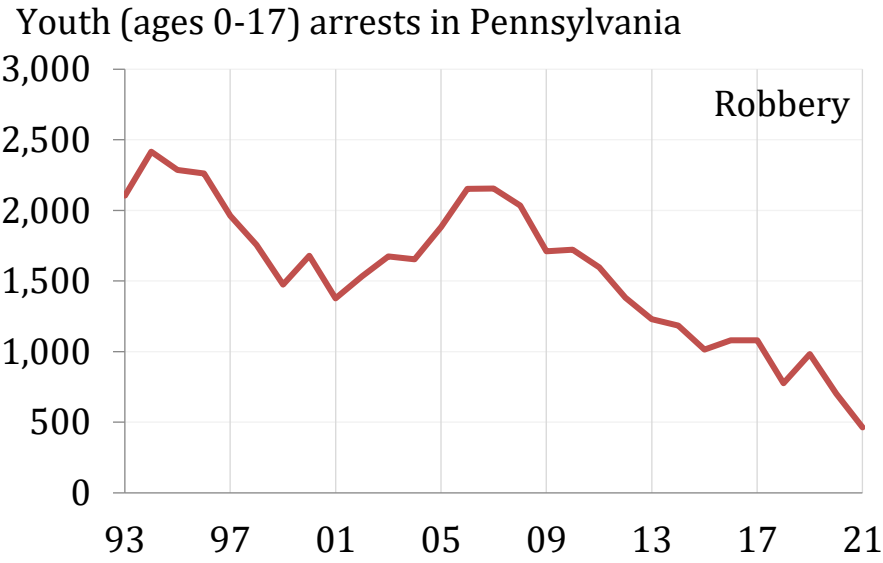


# Like the national trend, arrests of youth in Pennsylvania for violent crimes has declined

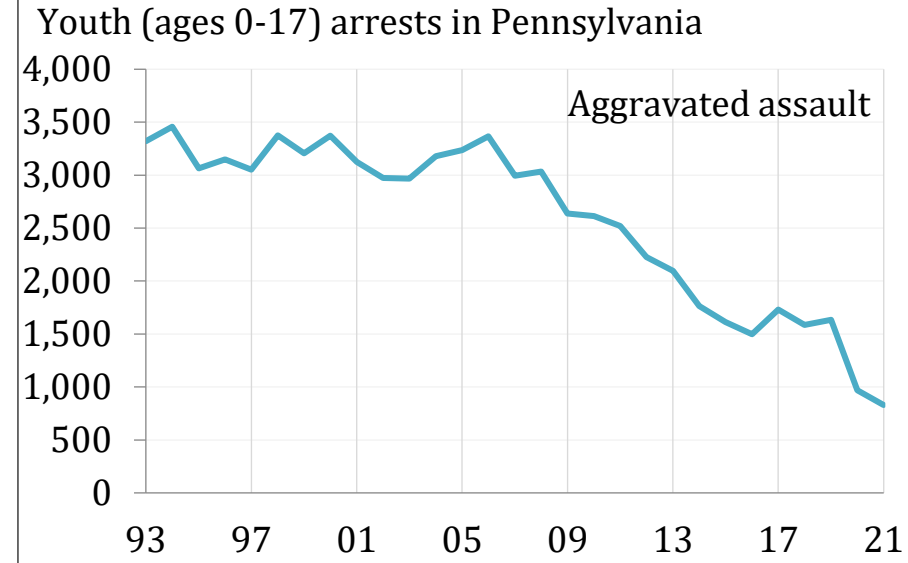


# In Pennsylvania, arrests for robbery and aggravated assault are well below their peaks

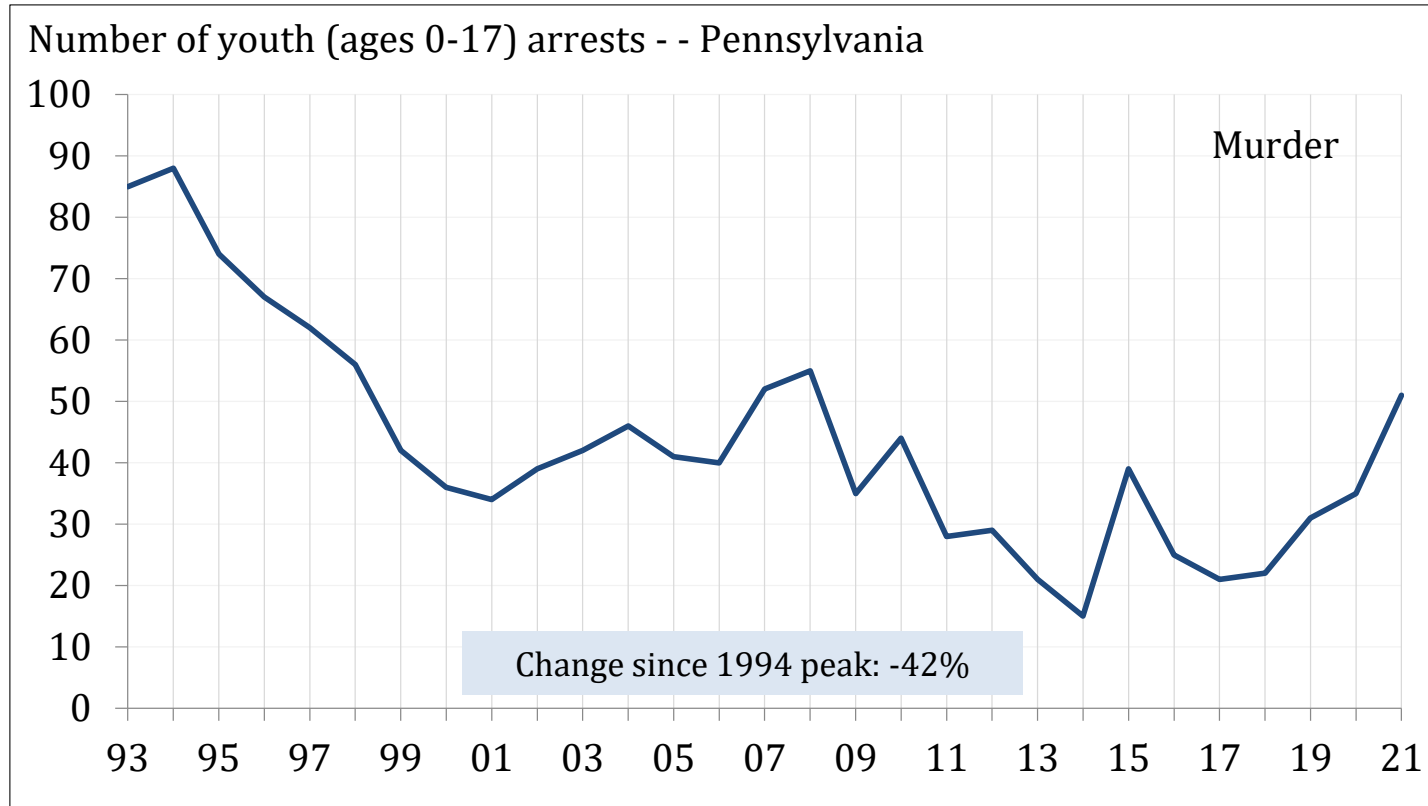
## Robbery



## Aggravated assault



# In Pennsylvania, arrests of youth for murder have increased since 2017



# Topic 7

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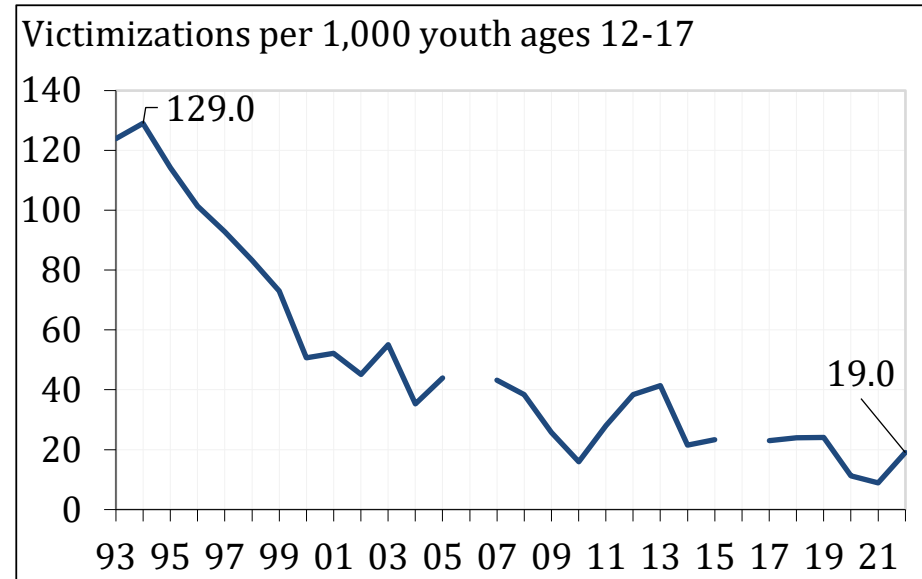
Violence against youth  
remains relatively low

# Nonfatal violent victimizations reported by youth have been on the decline

## Serious violence\*



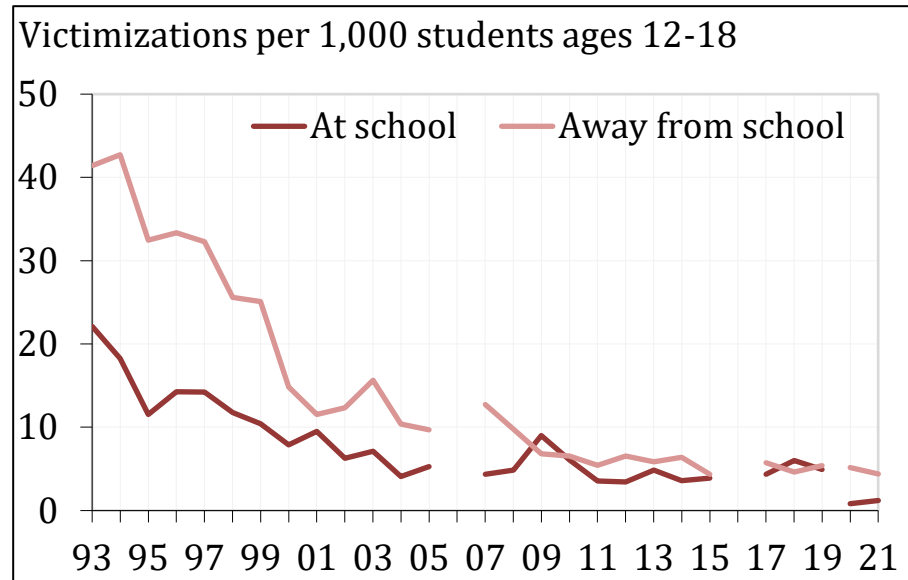
## Simple assault



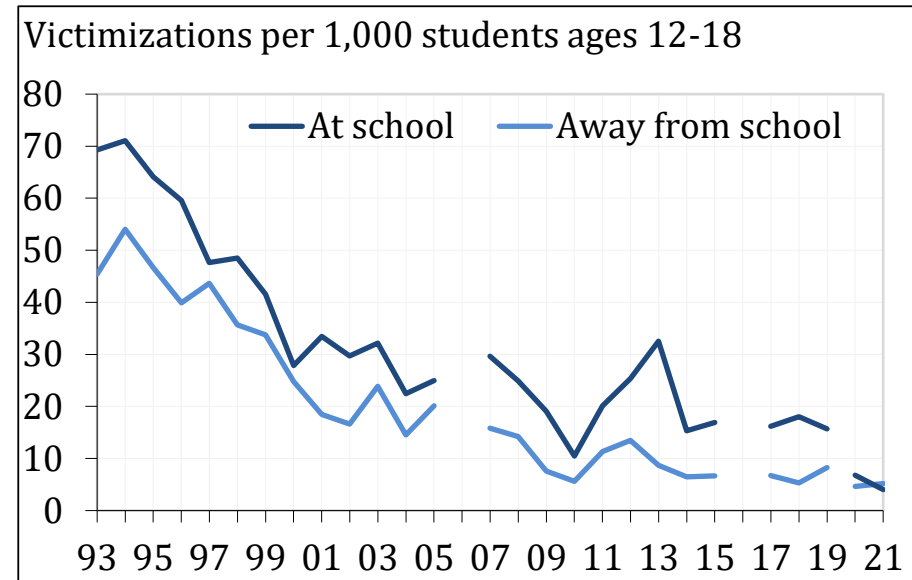
\*Robbery, violent sexual assault, & aggravated assault

# As has violence experienced by students at and on the way to school

## Serious violence\*

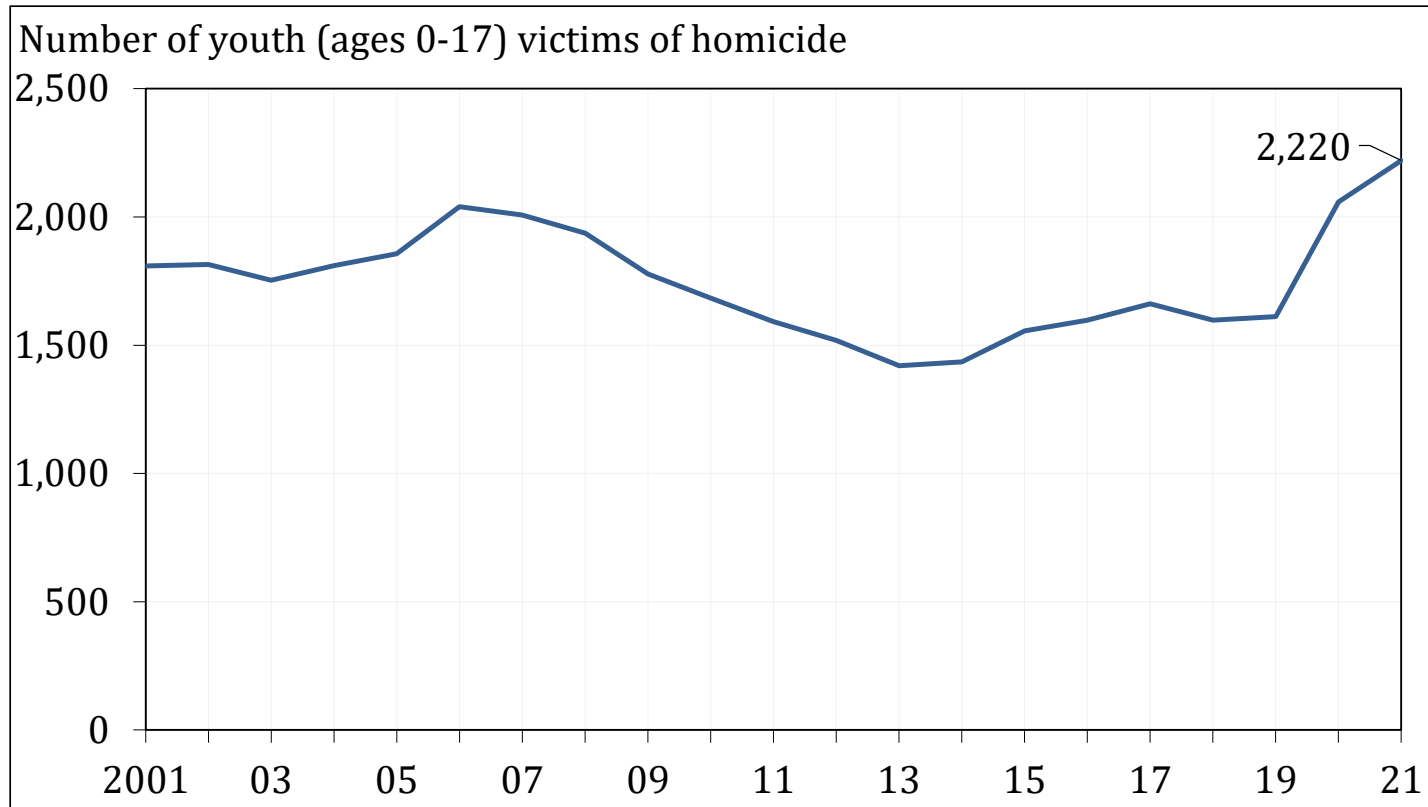


## Simple assault



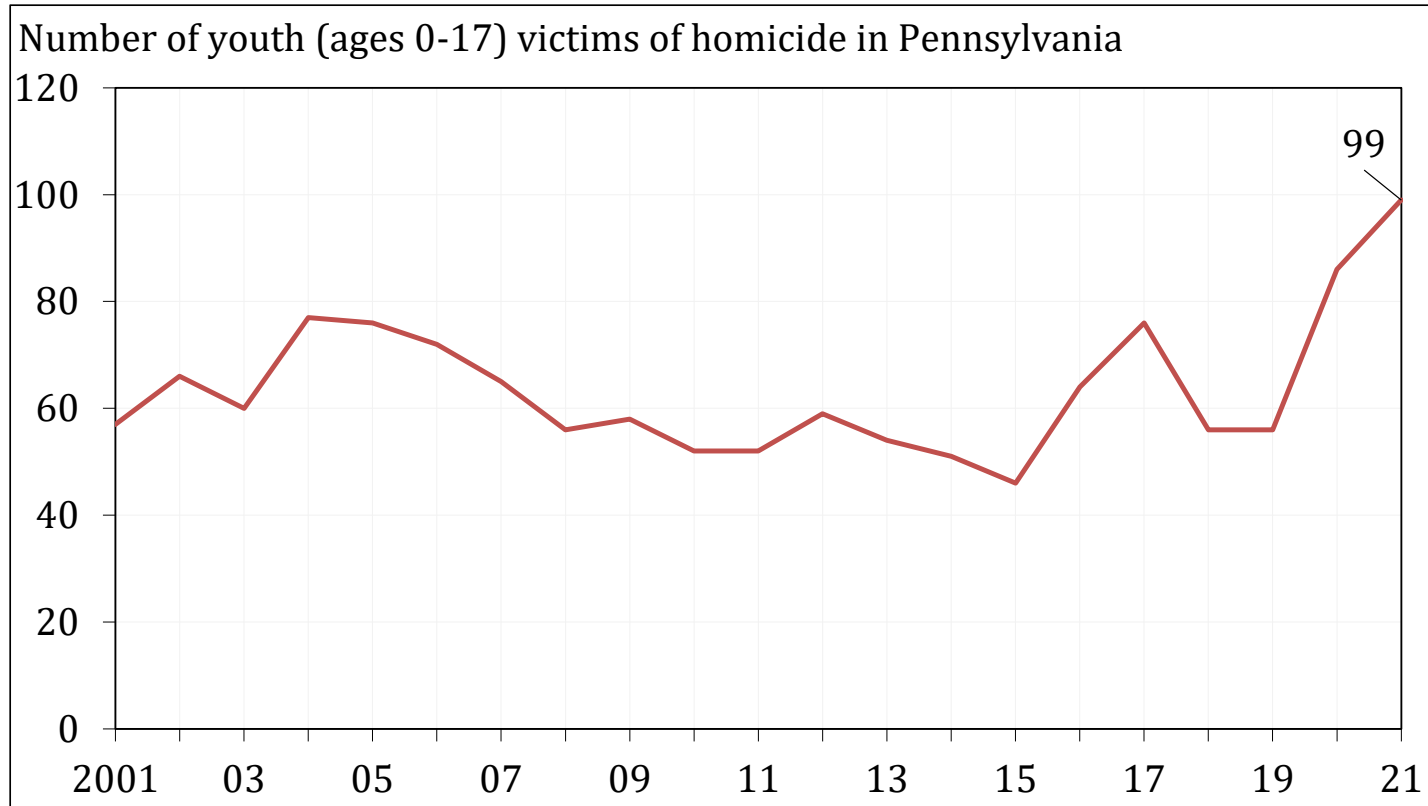
\*Robbery, violent sexual assault, & aggravated assault

# The number of youth homicide victims increased 38% since 2019

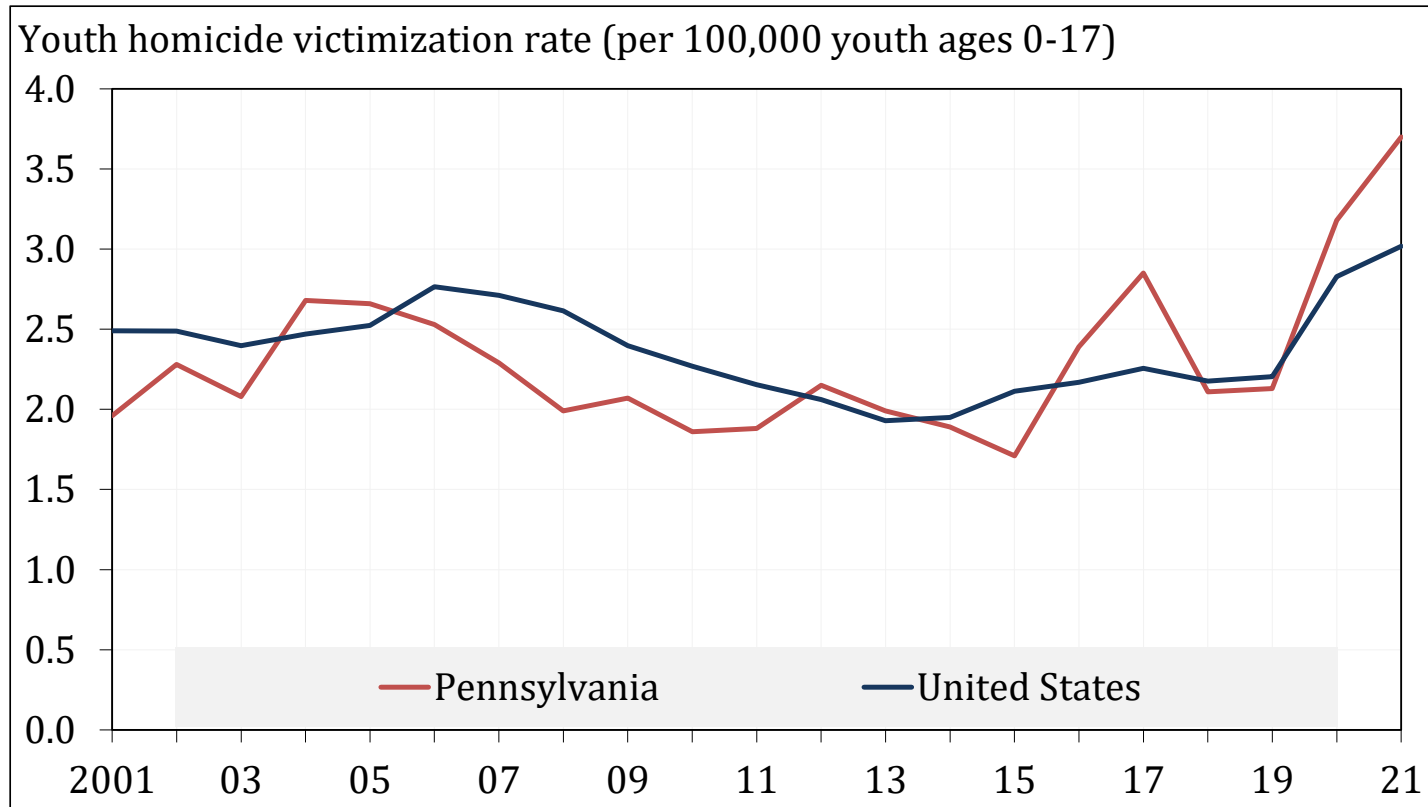




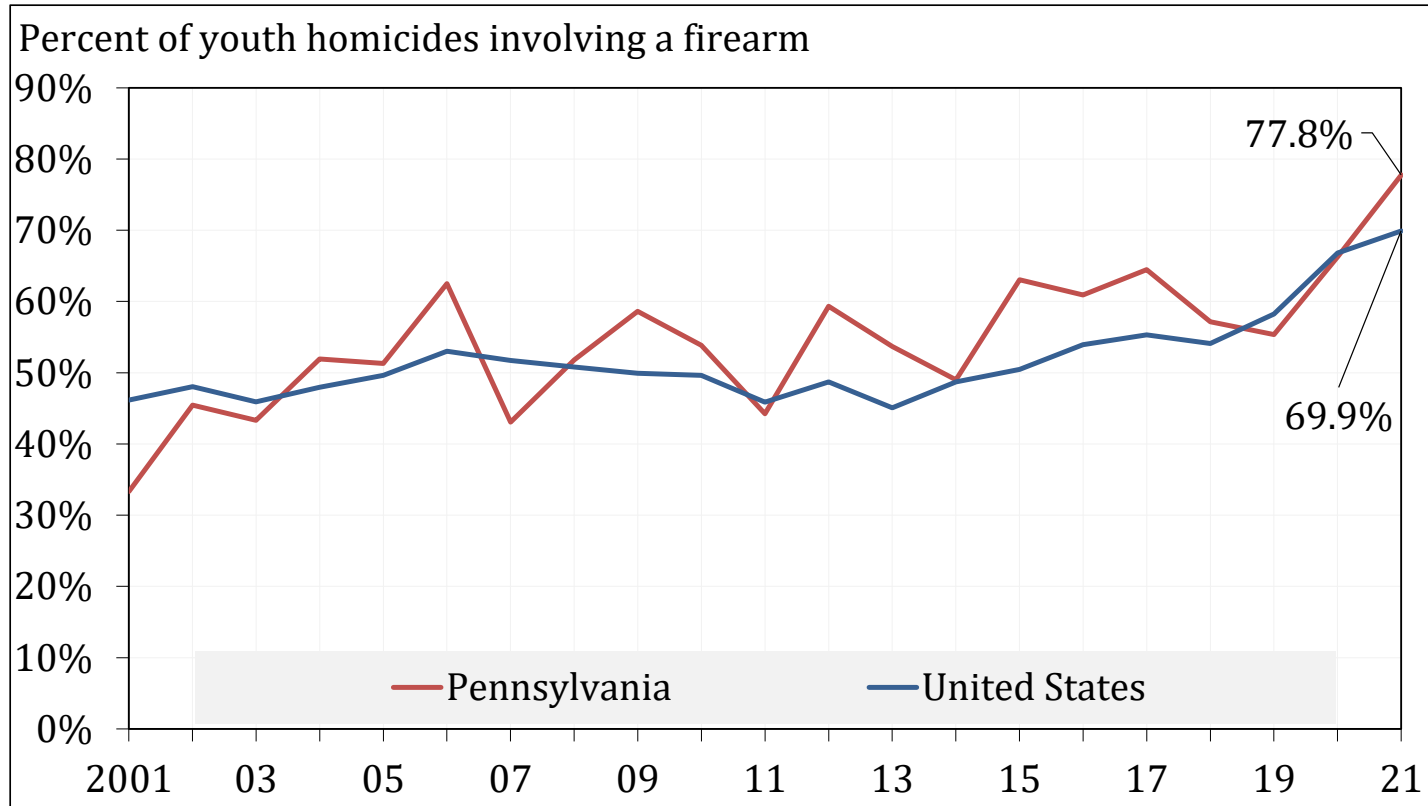
# In Pennsylvania, the number of youth homicide victims increased 77% since 2019



# The 2021 youth homicide victimization rate in Pennsylvania exceeded the national rate



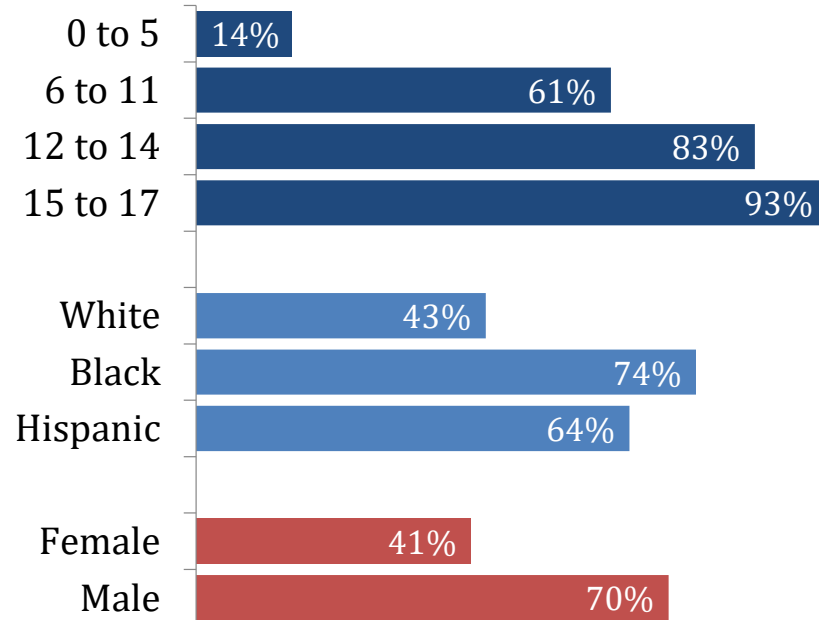
# The proportion of youth killed by a firearm has been on the rise



# The proportion of youth killed by a firearm increases with age

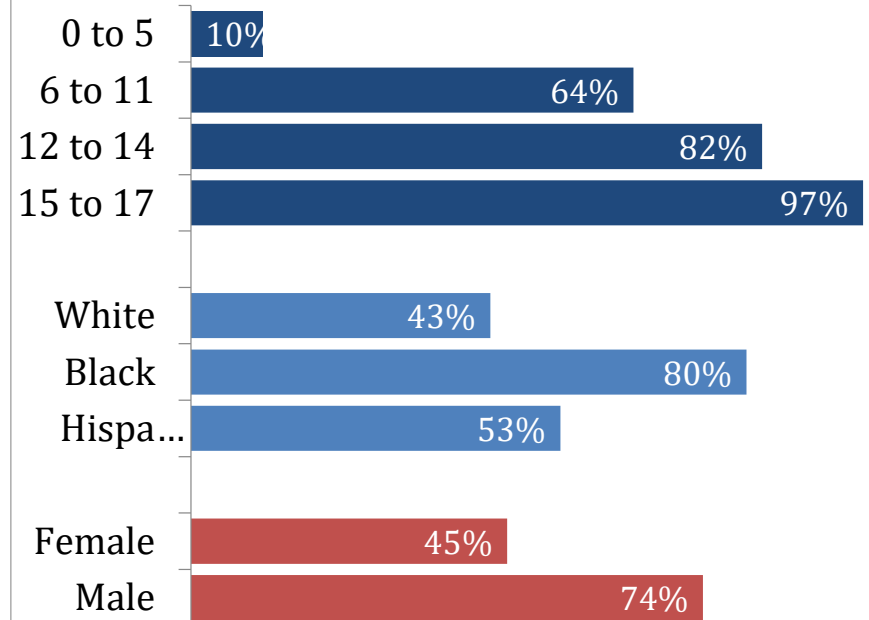
## United States

Percent of youth killed by a firearm, 2018-2021

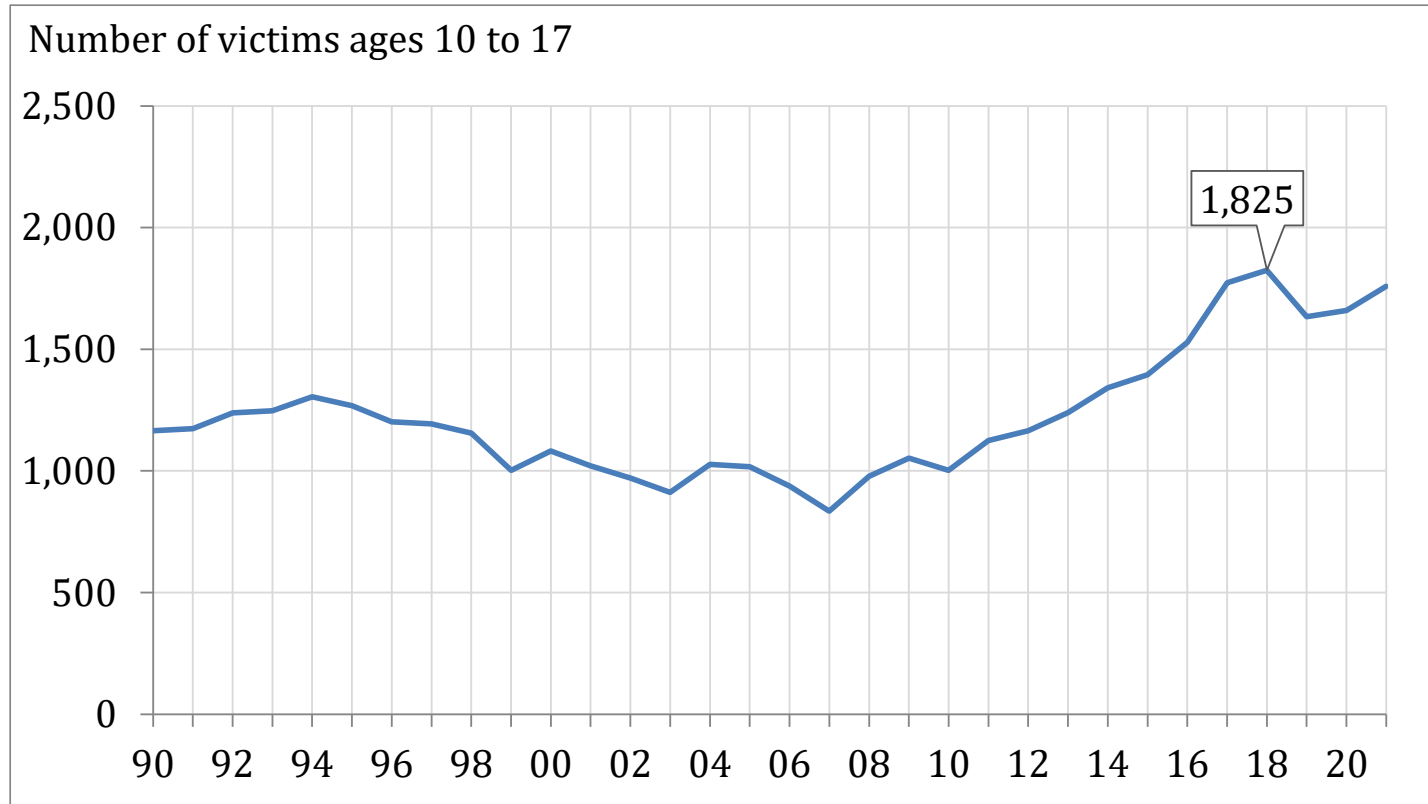


## Pennsylvania

Percent of youth killed by a firearm, 2018-2021--PA



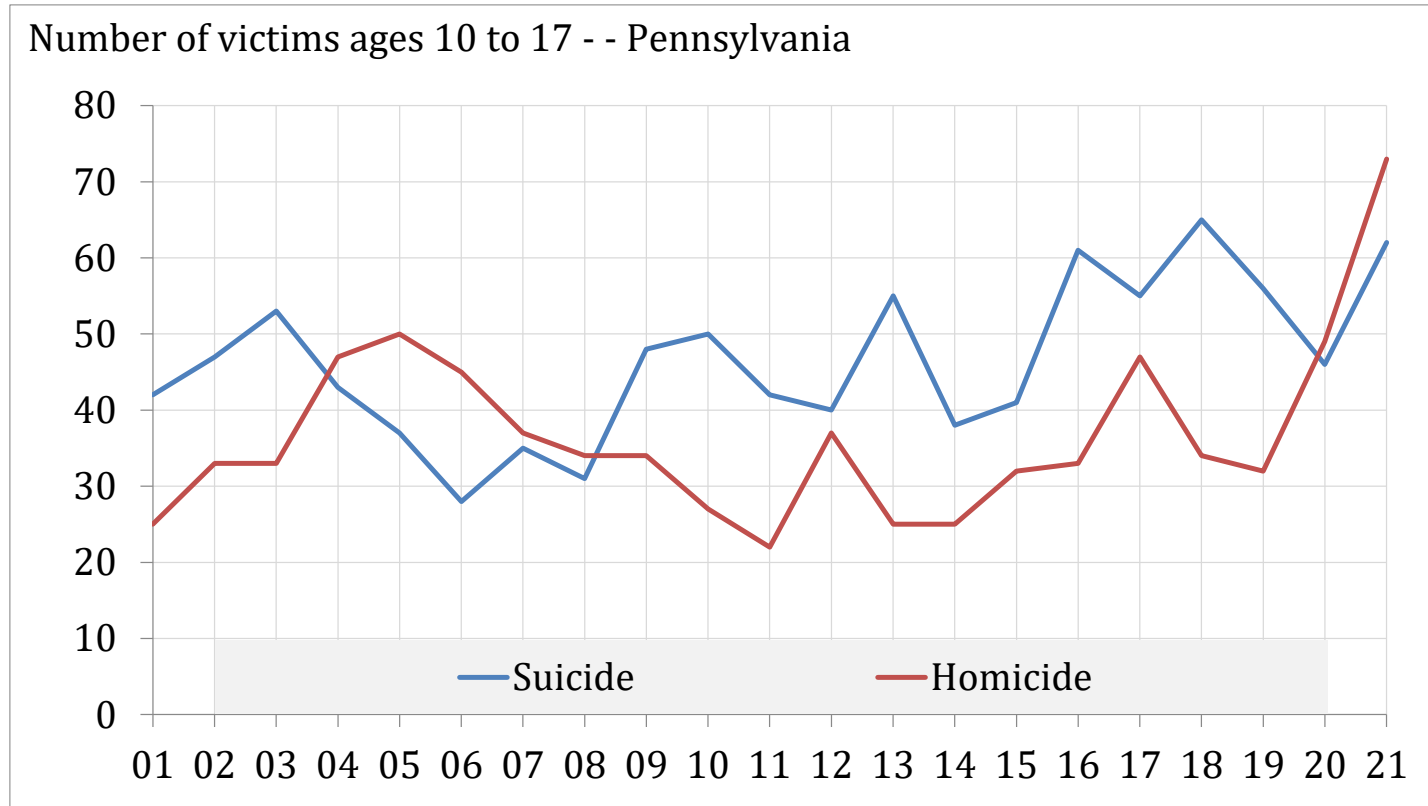
# The number of suicides involving youth ages 10 to 17 has increased since the mid-2000s



# Youth suicide victims outnumbered youth homicide victims since 2009 - but the gap has narrowed



# In Pennsylvania, suicide victims outnumbered homicide victims from 2009 through 2019



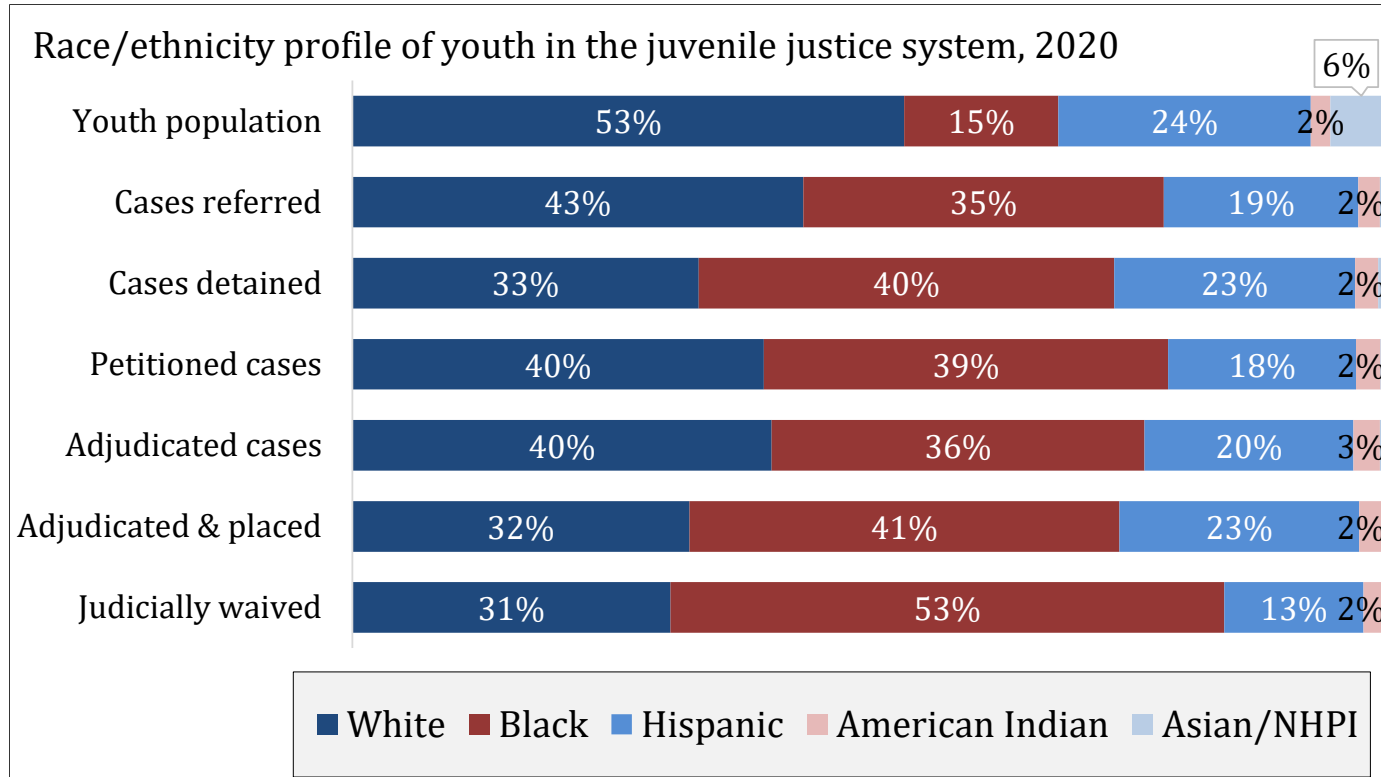
# Topic 8

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Racial and ethnic minority youth are handled differently than white youth

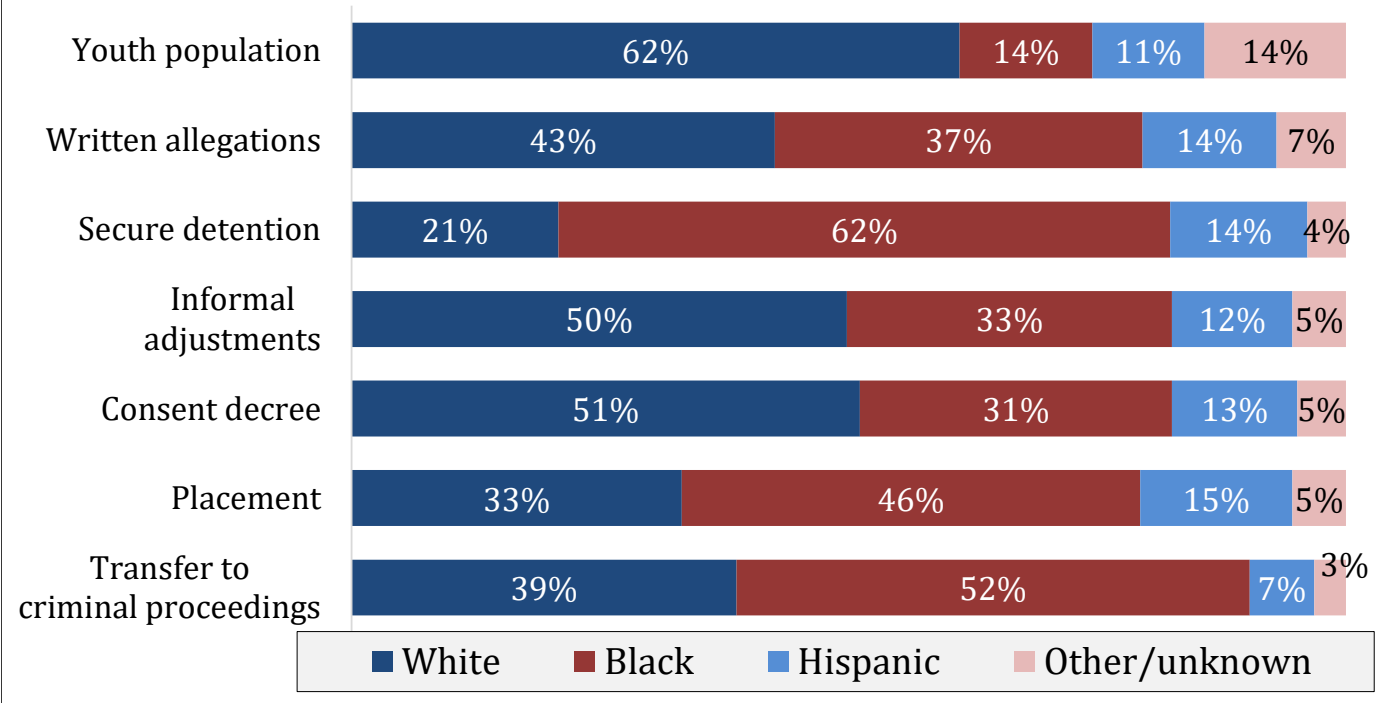


# Black youth are overrepresented at various stages of the juvenile justice system



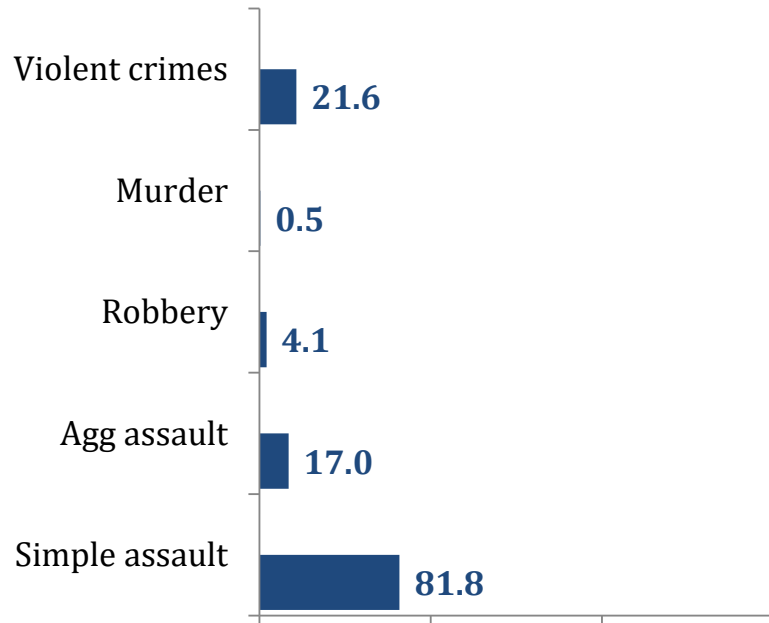
# The pattern in Pennsylvania mirrors the national pattern

Race/ethnicity profile of youth in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system, 2022

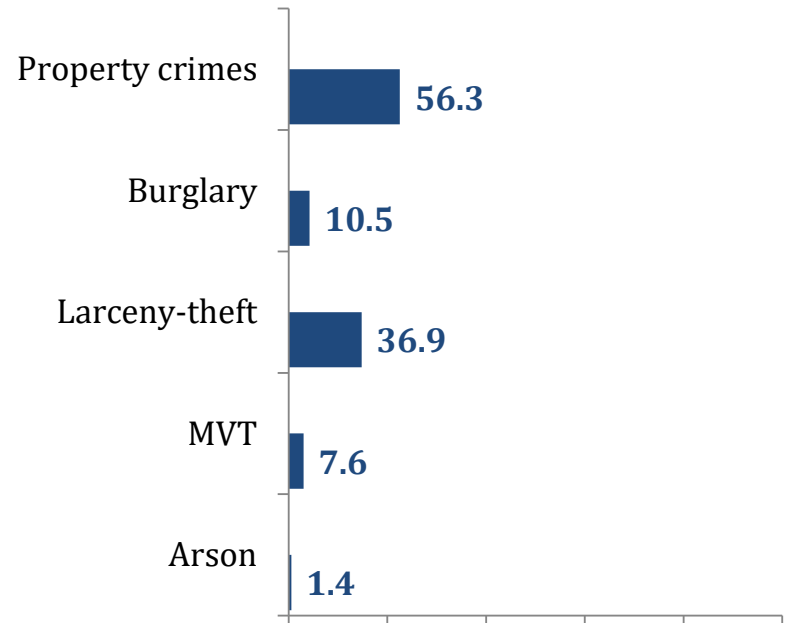


# Comparing rates and ratios is another way to monitor racial & ethnic fairness

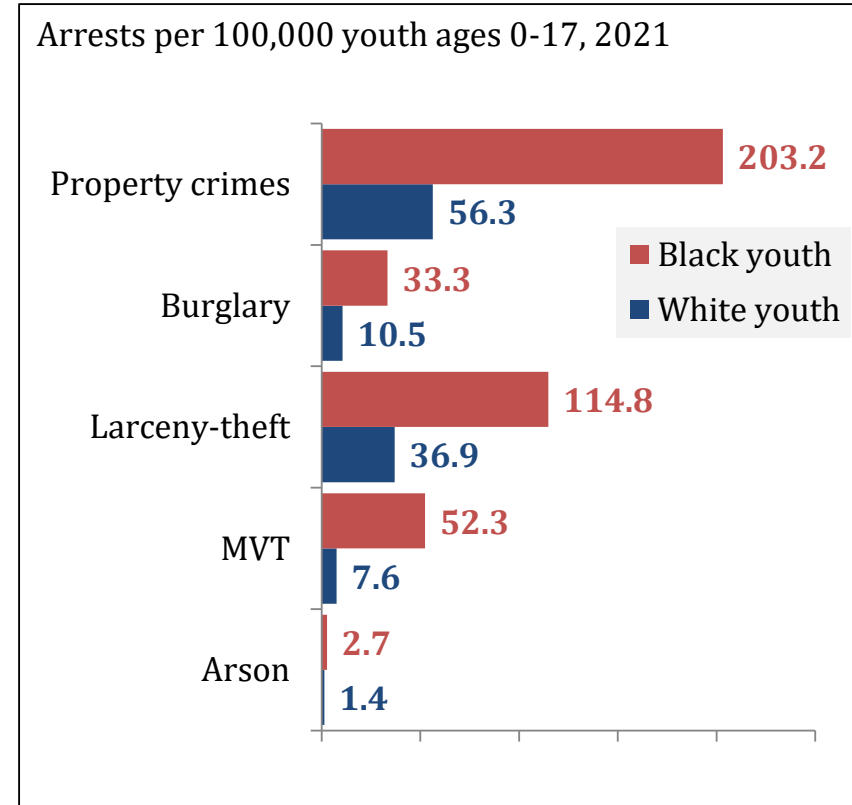
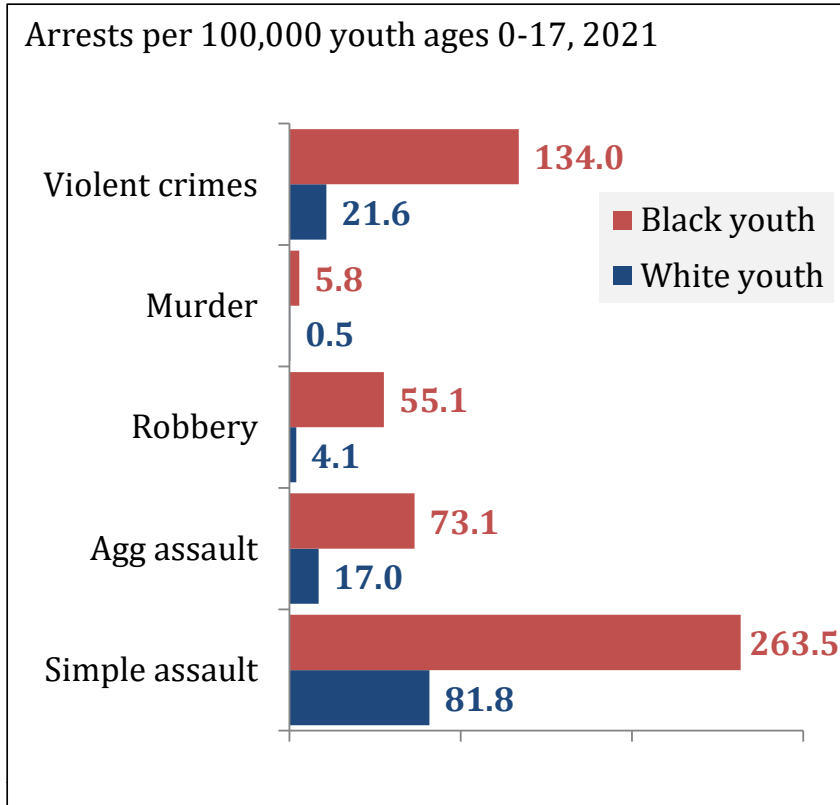
Arrests per 100,000 youth ages 0-17, 2021



Arrests per 100,000 youth ages 0-17, 2021

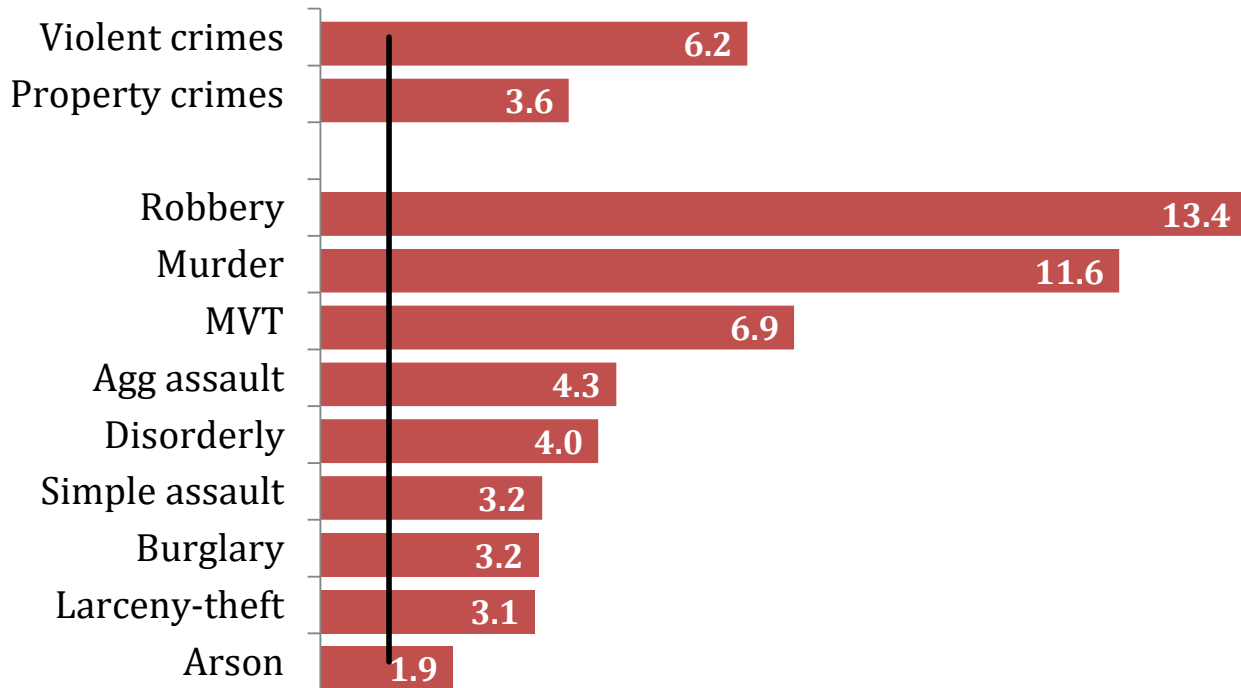


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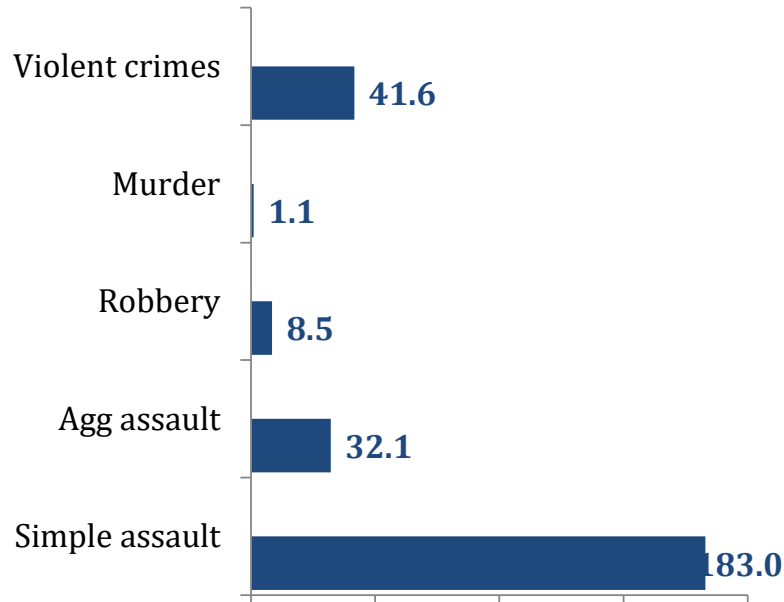
# For most offenses, the arrest rate for Black youth exceeded that of their White peers

Ratio of arrest rates between Black youth and White youth, 2021

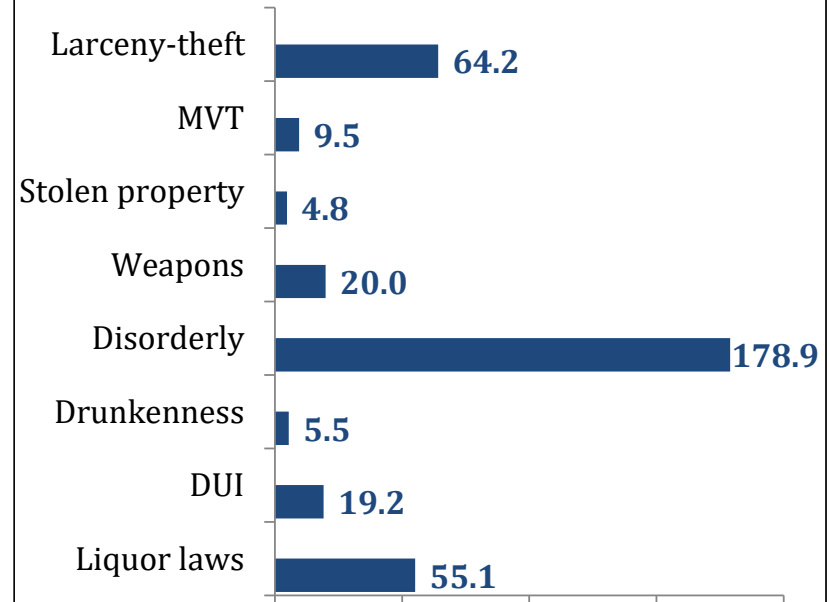


# What about in Pennsylvania?

Youth arrest rates (per 100,000 youth ages 10-17), Pennsylvania, 2021

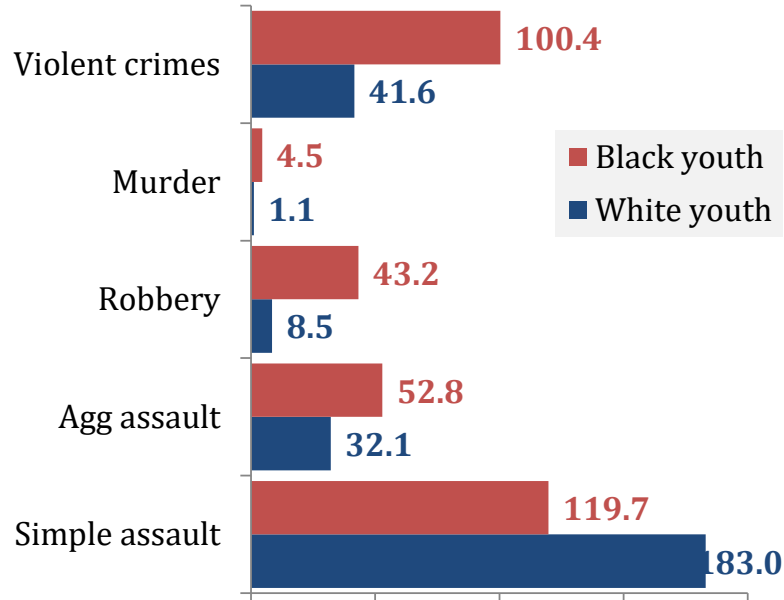


Youth arrest rates (per 100,000 youth ages 10-17), Pennsylvania, 2021

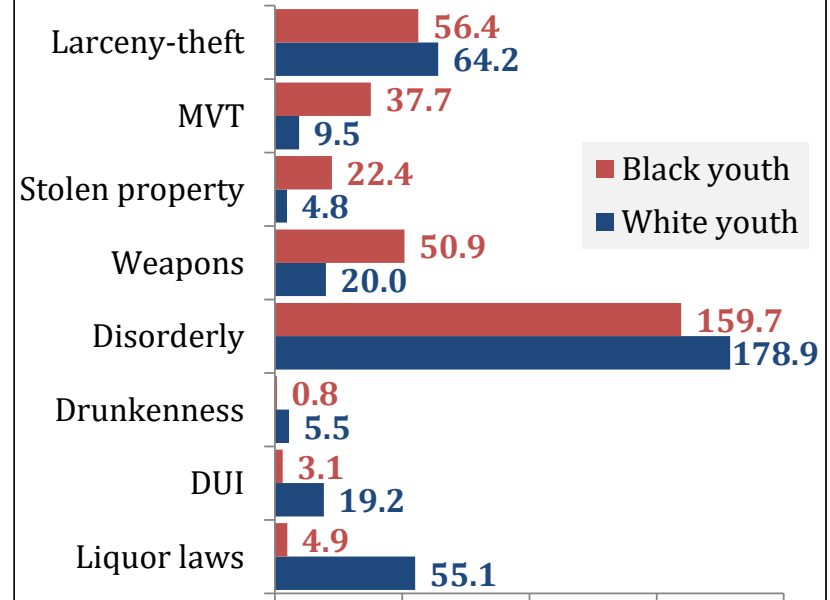


# What about in Pennsylvania?

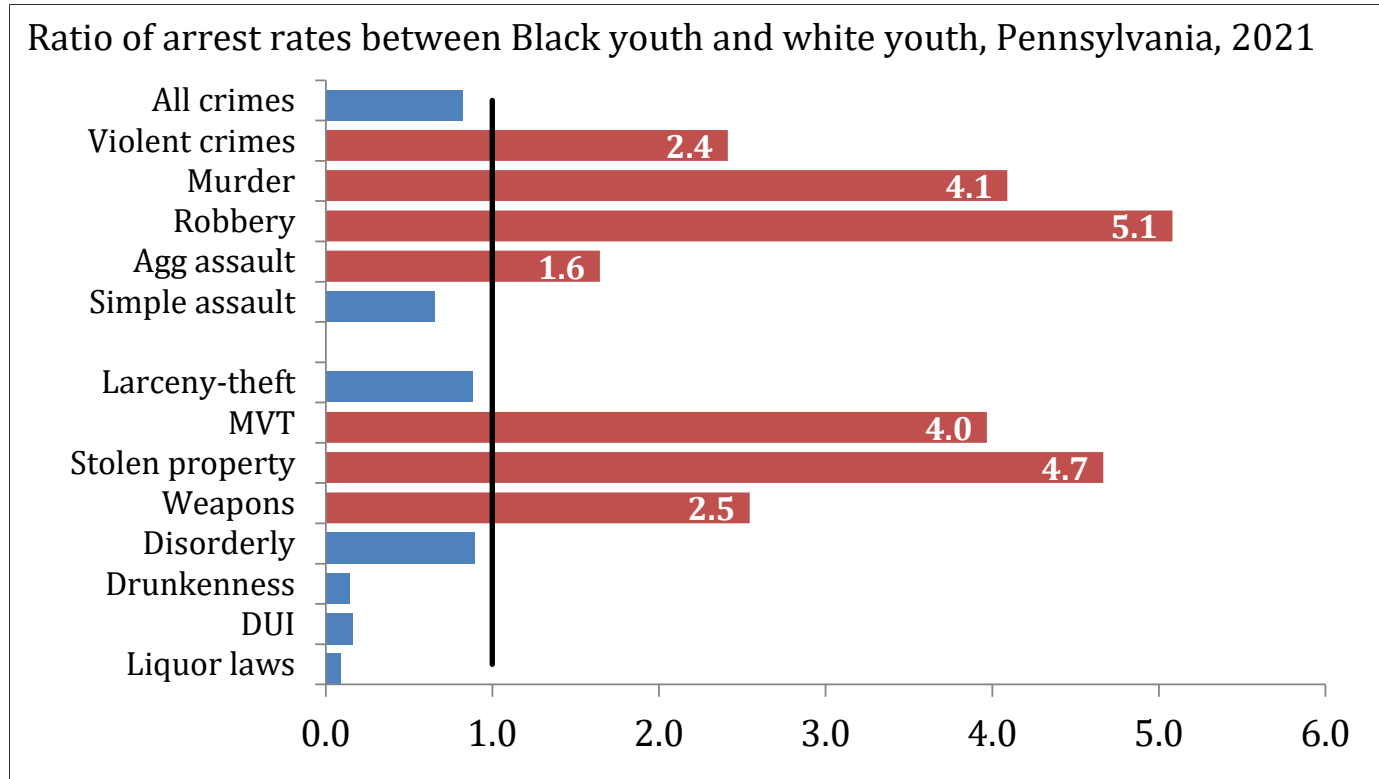
Youth arrest rates (per 100,000 youth ages 10-17), Pennsylvania, 2021



Youth arrest rates (per 100,000 youth ages 10-17), Pennsylvania, 2021

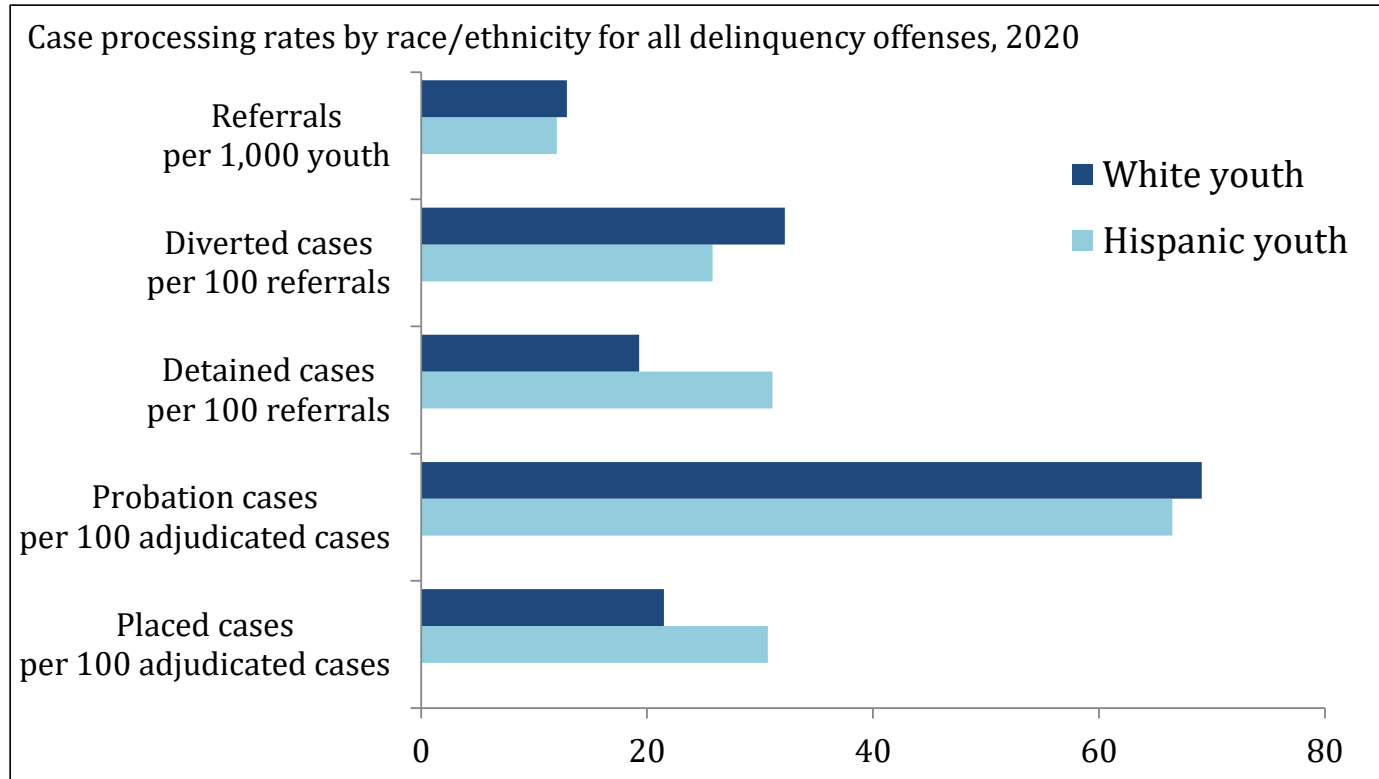


# Composite for Pennsylvania is different than the national pattern

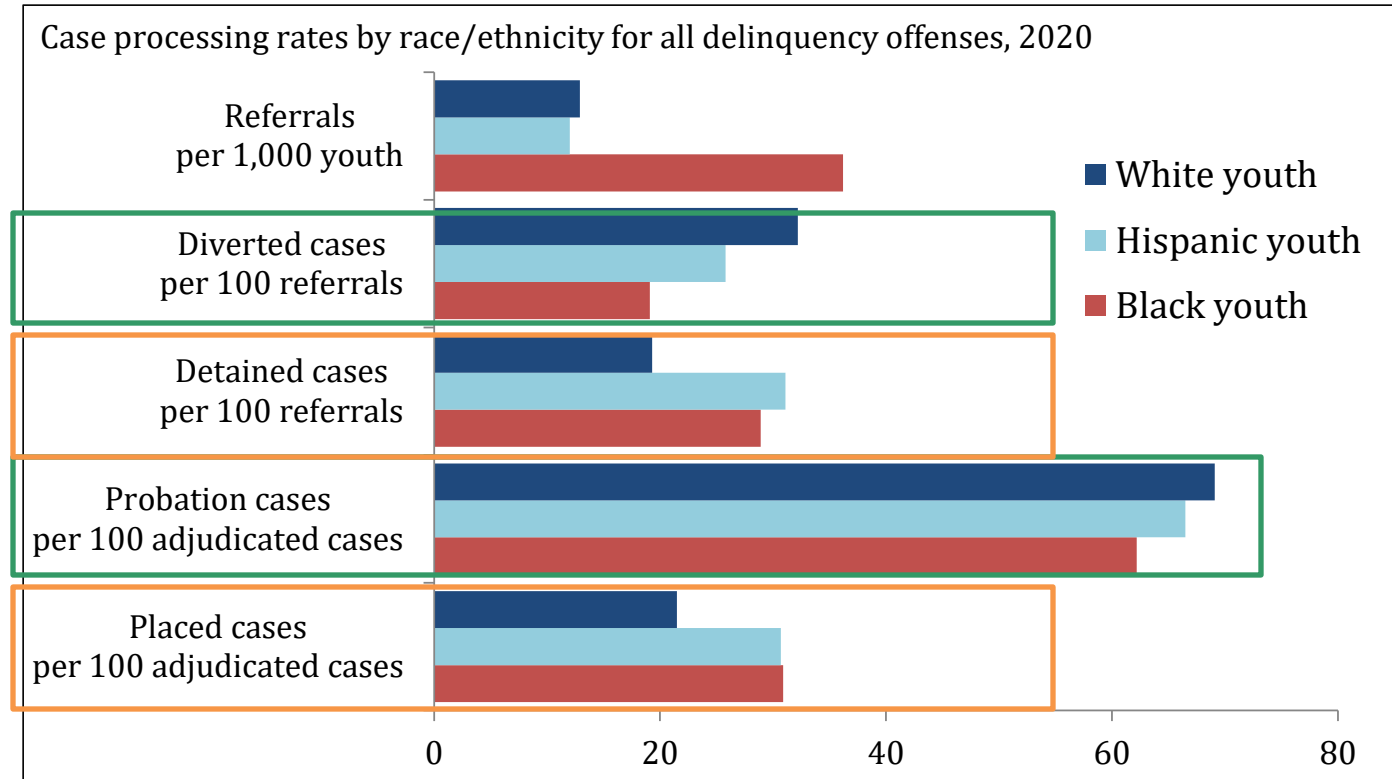




# Court data allows us to compare case processing outcomes by race and ethnicity

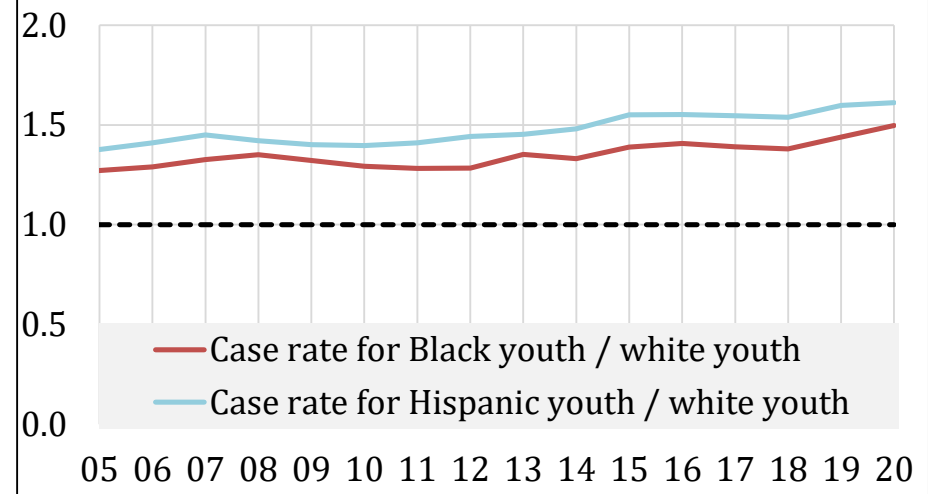


# Detention and placement were more likely for cases involving Black or Hispanic youth

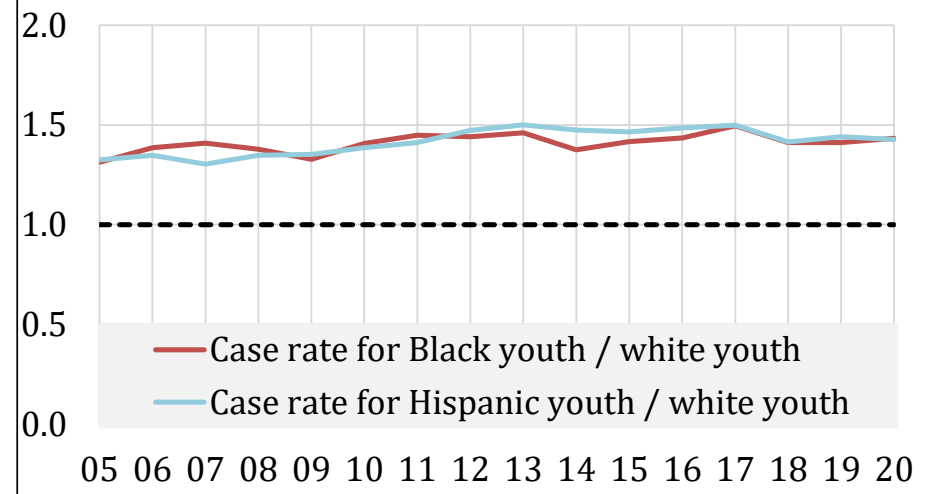


# ... a pattern that has persisted since at least 2005

Ratio of detention rates for all delinquency offenses



Ratio of placement rates for all delinquency offenses

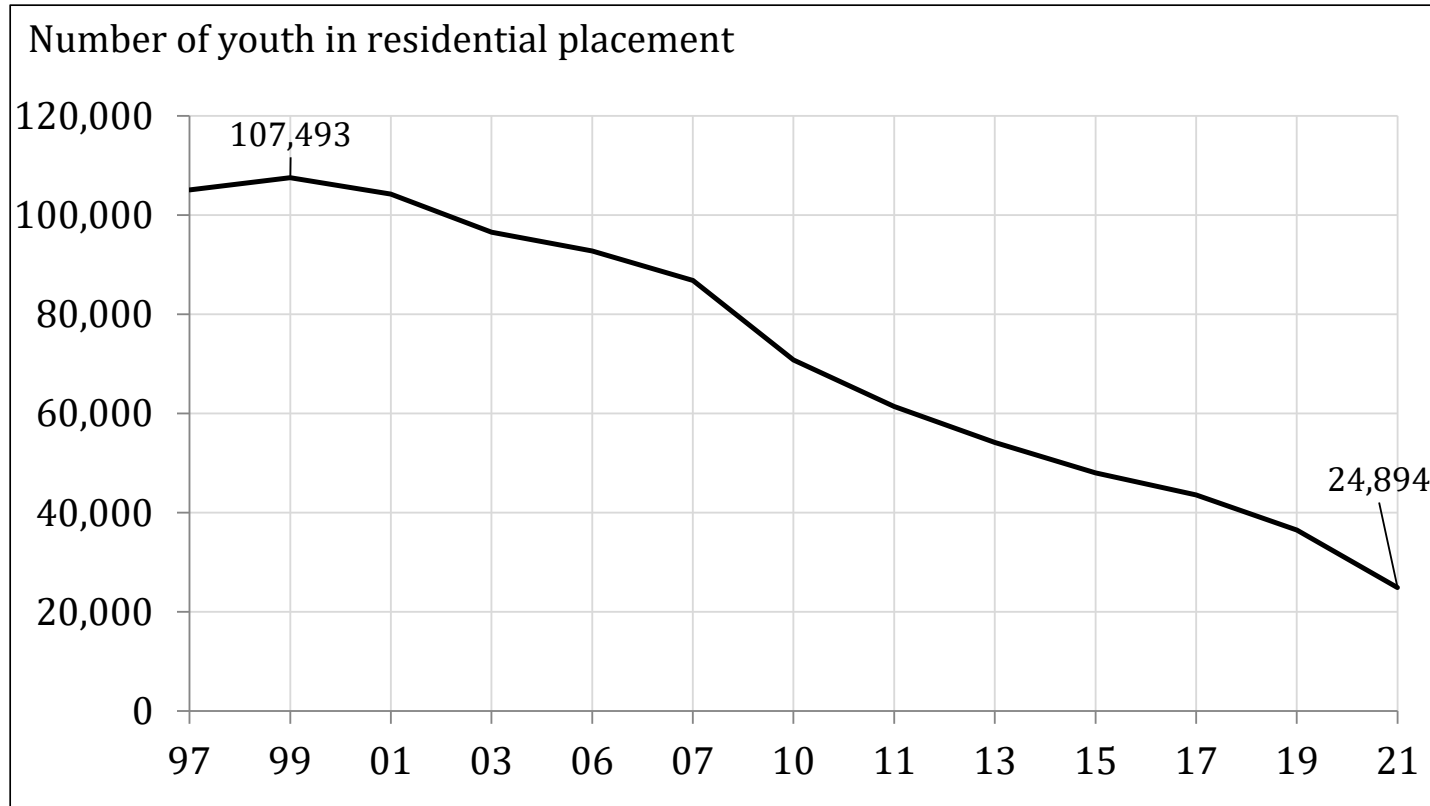


# Topic 9

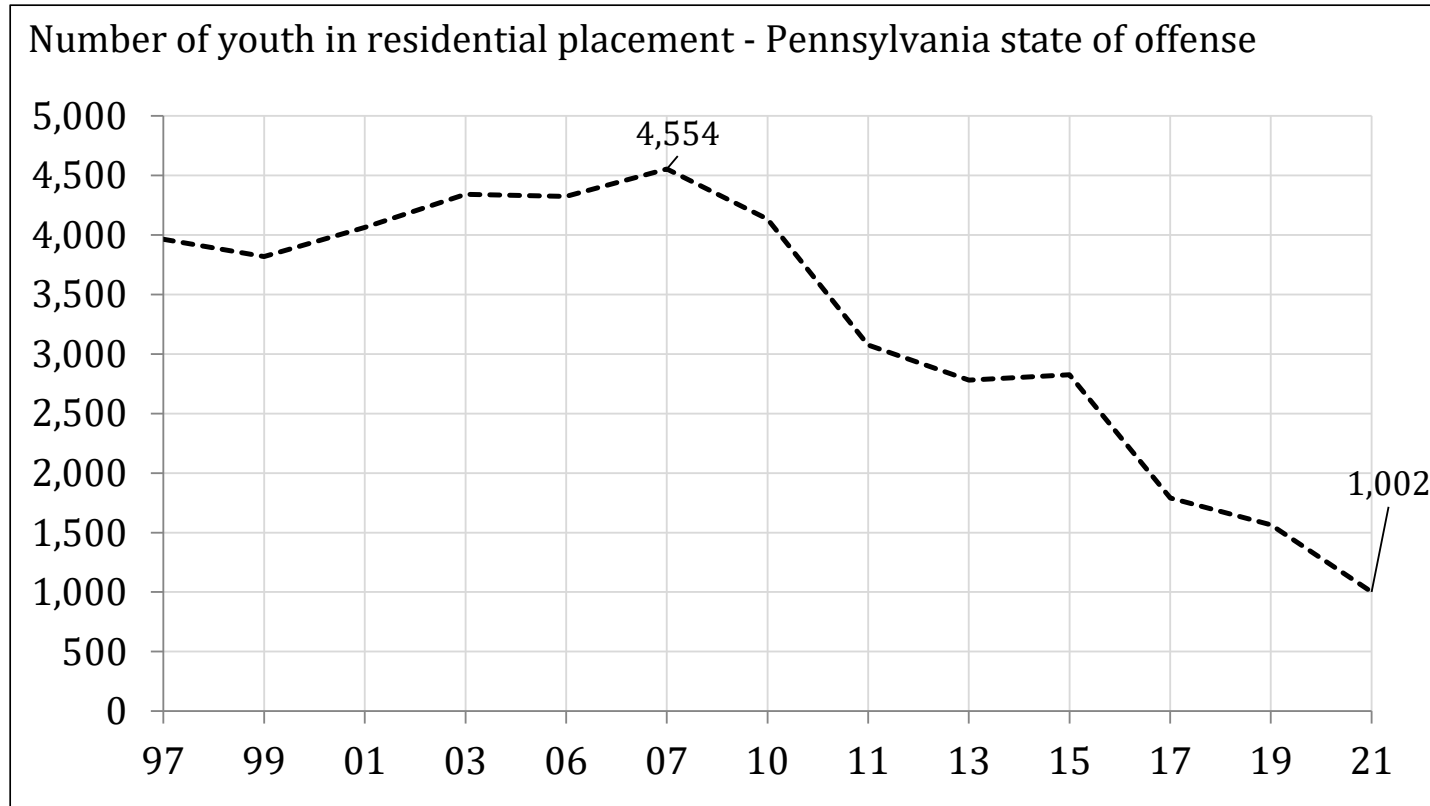
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The number of youth in residential placement continues to decline

# The number of youth in placement declined 77% since 1999

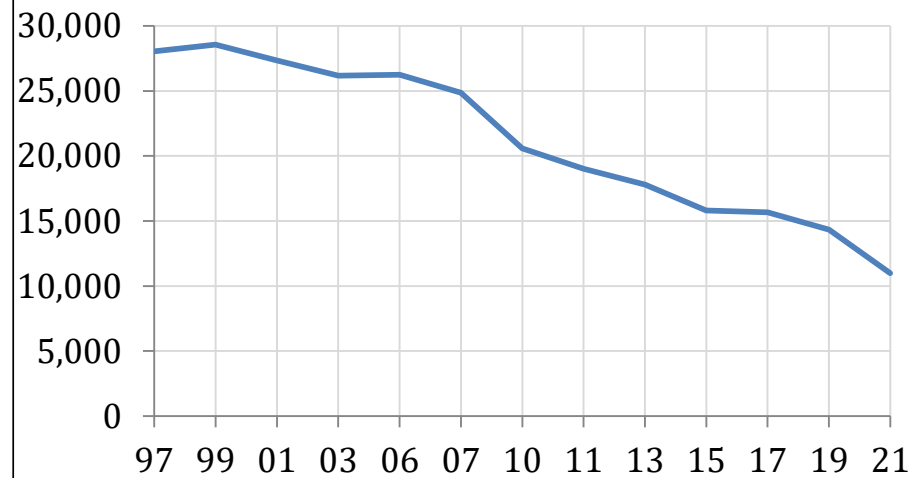


# In Pennsylvania, the number of youth in placement declined 78% since 2007

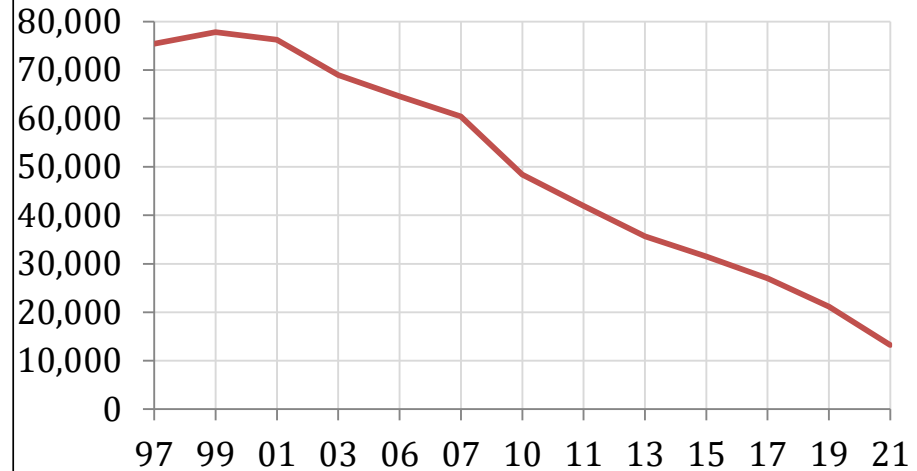


# Similar declines were found among the detained and committed populations

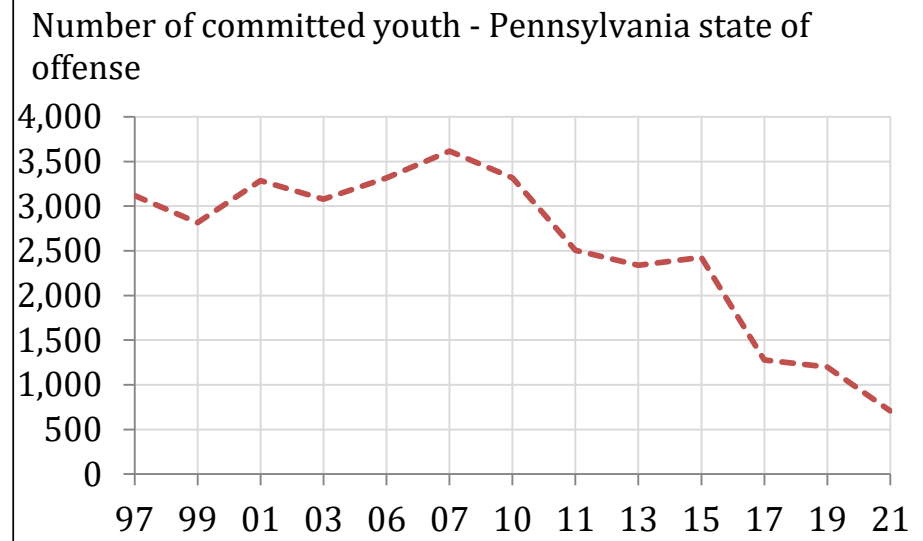
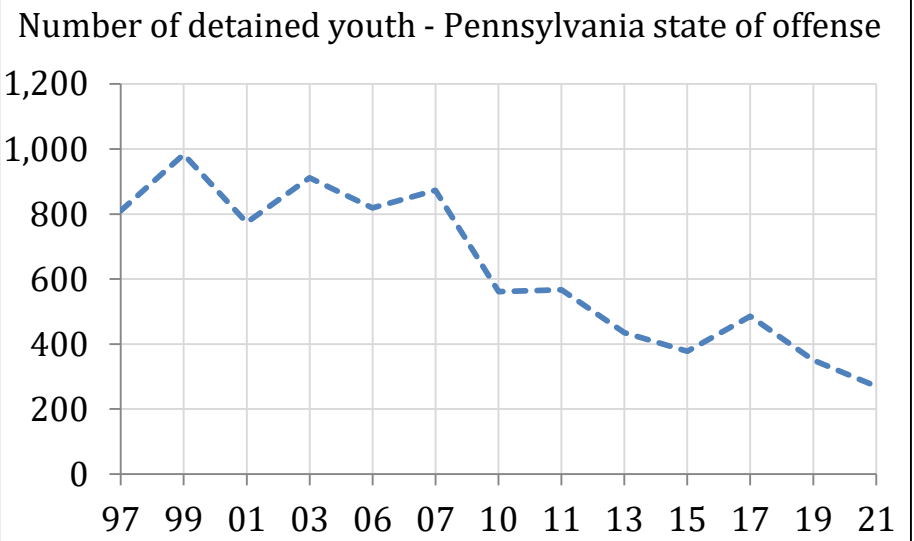
Number of detained youth in residential placement



Number of committed youth in residential placement



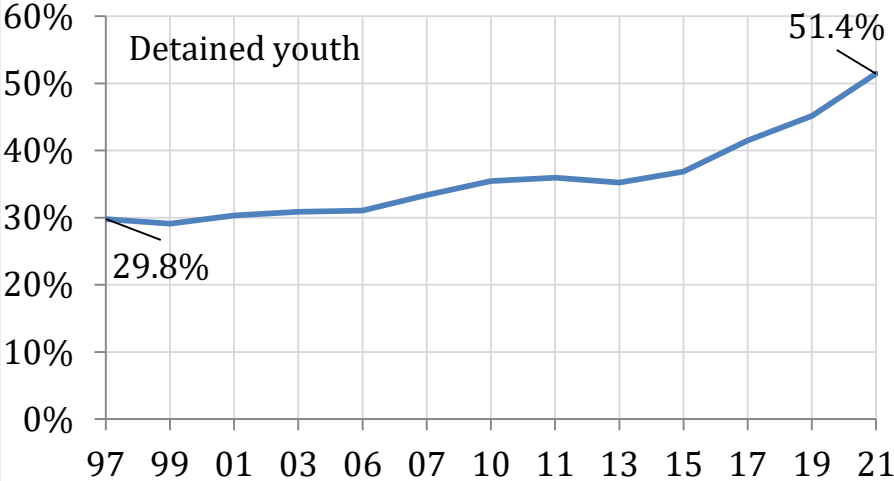
# In Pennsylvania, the committed population peaked in 2007 and has since declined



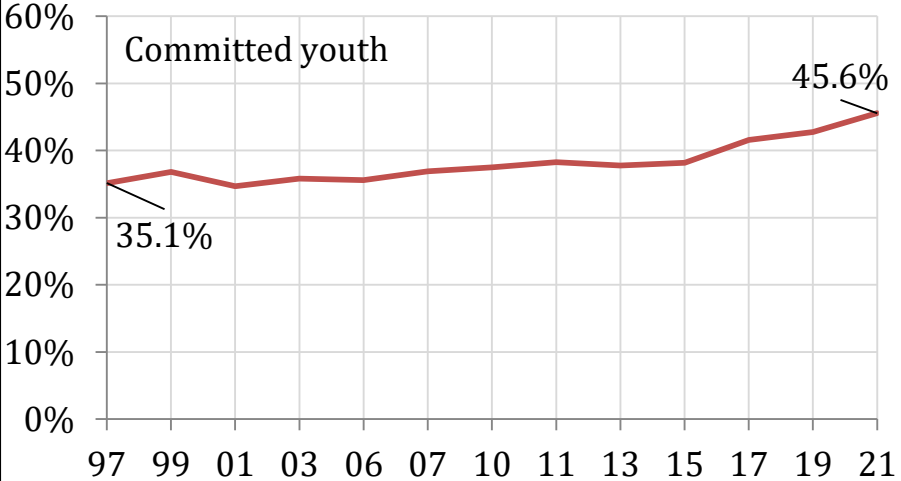


# The proportion of youth in residential placement for a person offense has grown

Percent held for a person offense



Percent held for a person offense

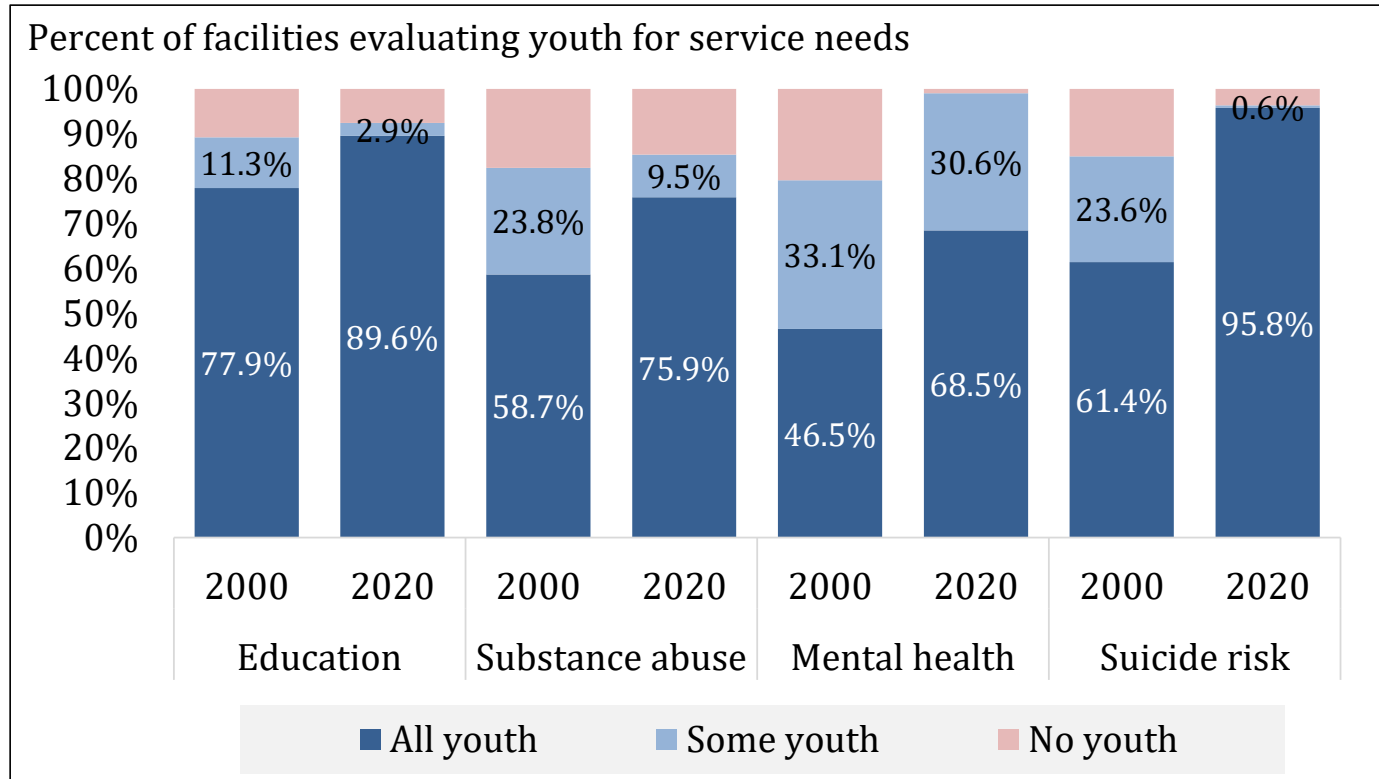


# Topic 10

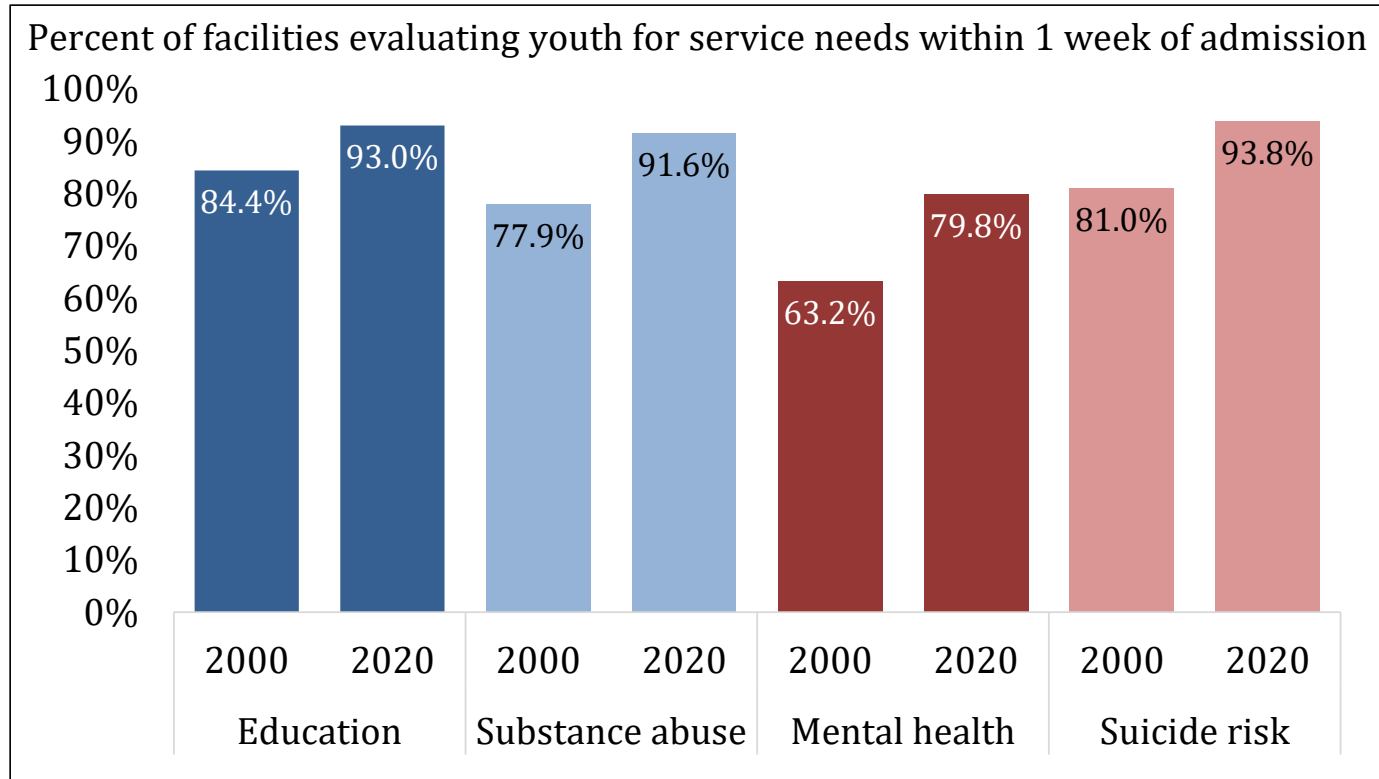
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Screening for service needs  
has increased among juvenile  
residential placement facilities

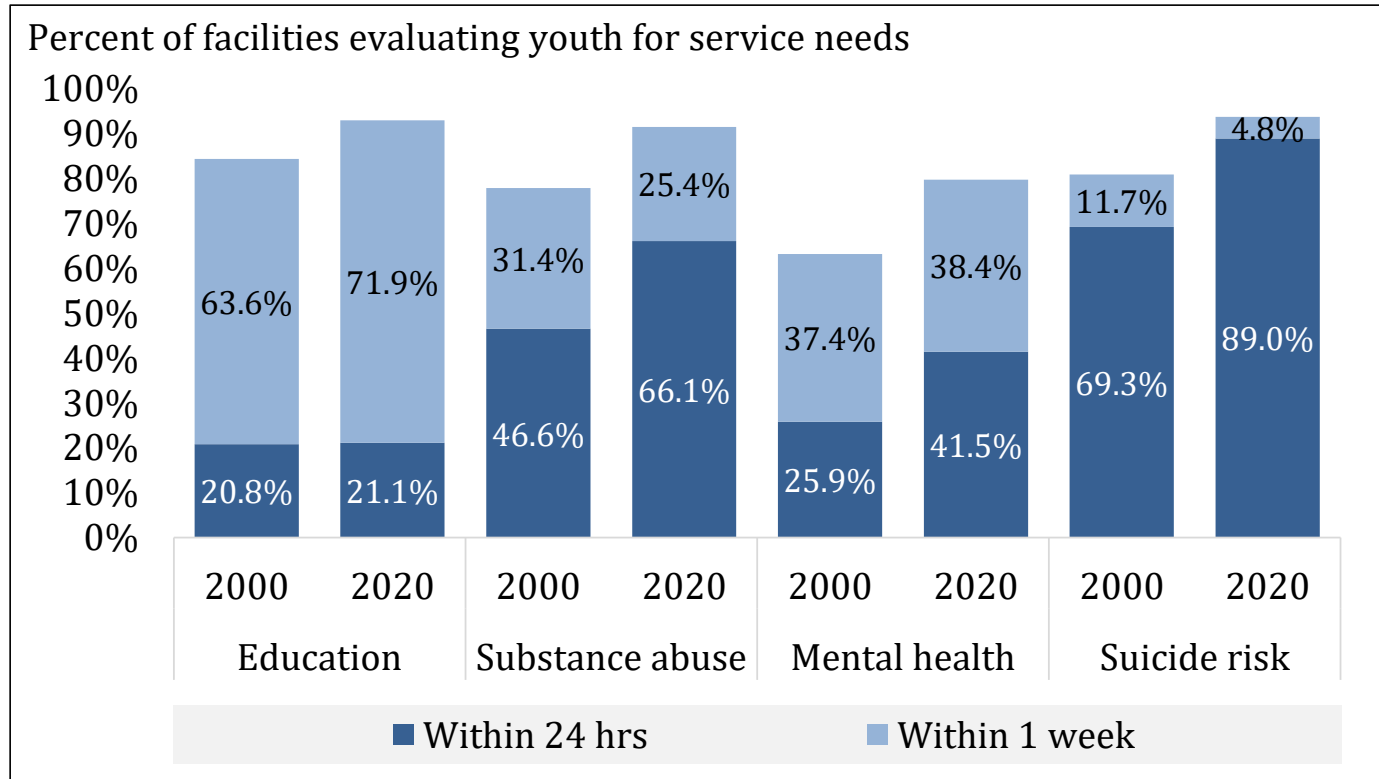
# The proportion of facilities that screen all youth for service needs has increased



# And most facilities that evaluate for service needs do so within one week of admission



# Nearly 90% of facilities that evaluate for suicide risk do so within 24 hours



# Topic 11

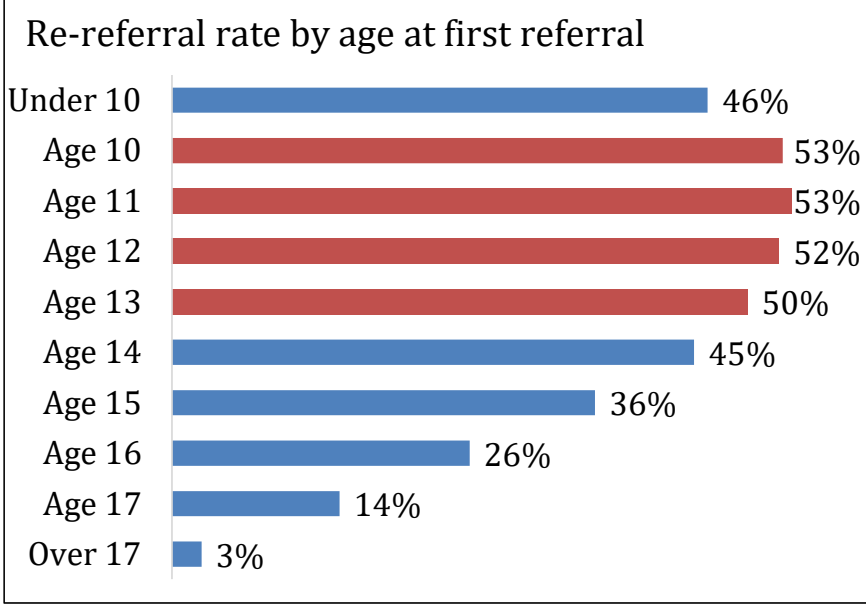
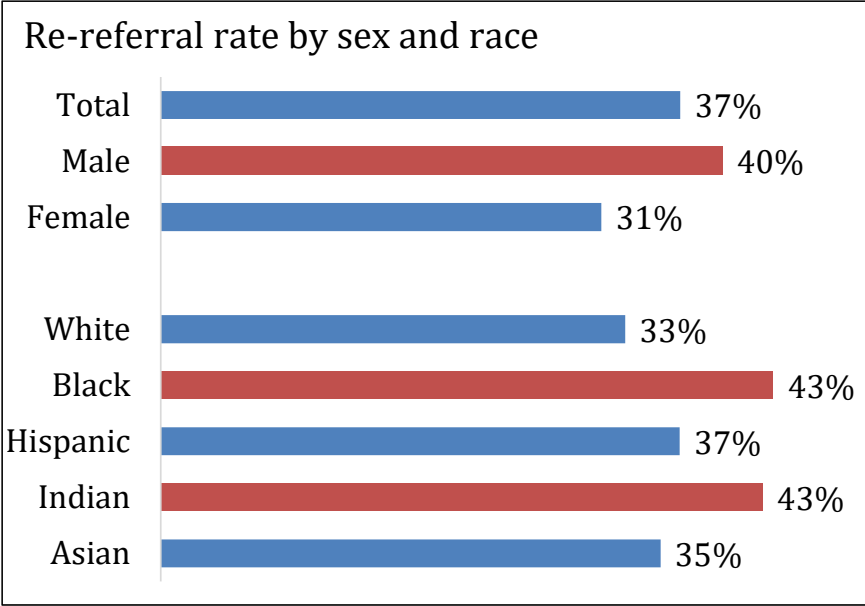
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Most youth referred to juvenile court do not return

# Latest bulletin describes reoffending patterns of a cohort of youth born in 2000

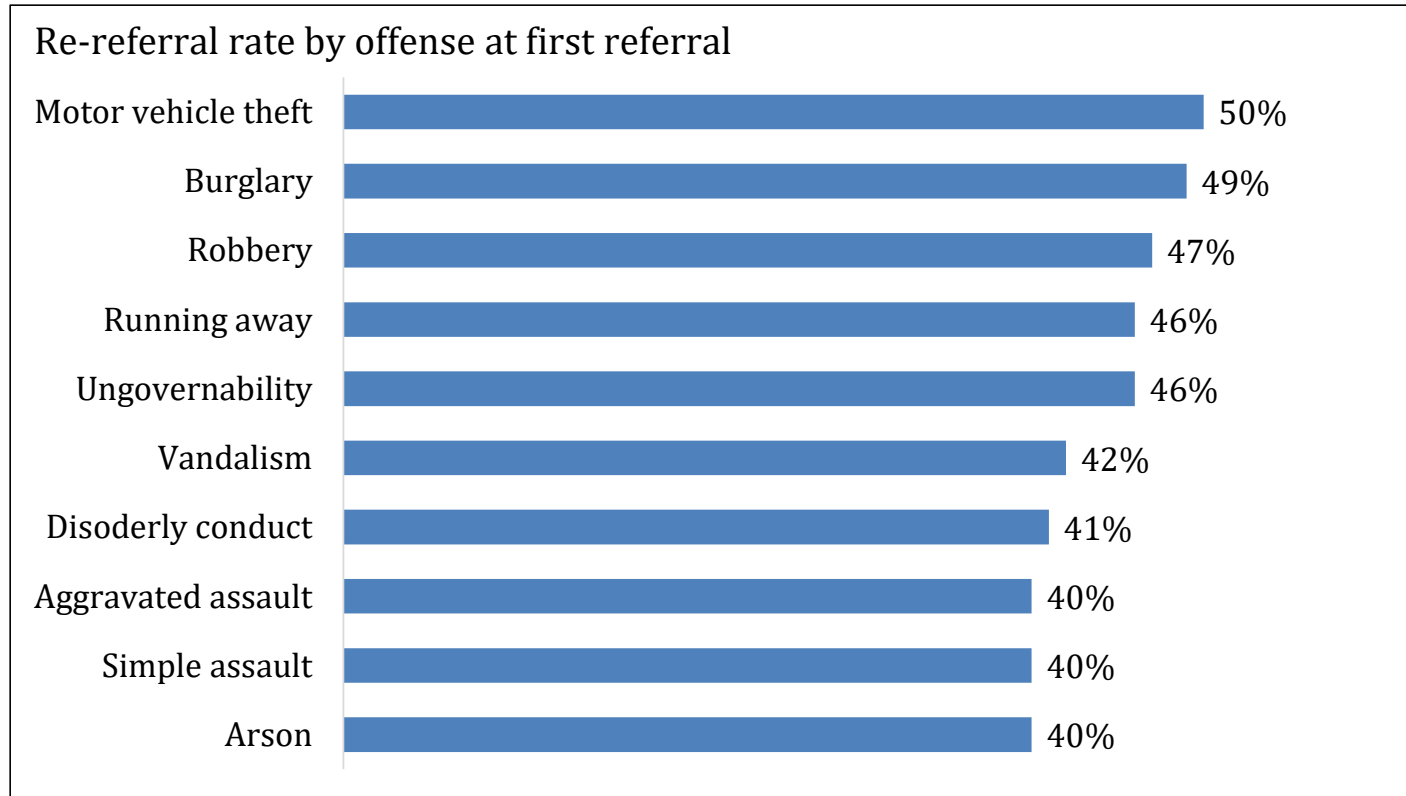
- Case level data from **17** jurisdictions representing **34%** of the youth population at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system
- 903 counties
  - About half (49%) were classified as **mostly urban** (and most youth were from such counties)
  - About half (49%) were described as **persistent poverty** areas (about one-third of youth were from such counties)
- Cohort included **161,057** youth born in 2000 who had at least one referral to juvenile court; prevalence rate of 12%

# Most youth in the cohort were “one and done”





# Youth initially referred for motor vehicle theft or burglary were most likely to return



# Re-referral rates were also related to the disposition at first referral

Re-referral rate by sanction at first referral

**Caution: we can't really tell from these data if the court was really good at reserving the more severe disposition for youth more likely to reoffend (which would help explain the high re-referral rate for youth who received a placement disposition)**

**OR**

**If the more severe court response may have increased the likelihood of youth reoffending.**

**Maybe a little of both – this is something we are looking into**

PROBATION

# A small proportion of youth generate many cases

Number of referrals in career	Youth in cohort		Cases generated	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total	161,057	100%	341,923	100%
1 referral	101,739	63%	101,739	30%
2-3 referrals	37,251	23%	86,207	25%
4 or more referrals	22,067	14%	153,977	45%

# *Comments/questions/discussion*

Chaz Puzzanchera  
[cpuzzanchera@ncjfcj.org]

Marly Zeigler  
[mzeigler@ncjfcj.org]

