



Updated Profile of Youth Charged in Adult Court, SFY 2015 to SFY 2021

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Executive Summary

This report provides an update to a previous report prepared by Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) for the Justice Advisory Board (JAB) in February 2020 on youth who entered the adult court system. The purpose of this report is to provide information on Iowa youth with serious offenses whose cases were handled in the adult court system from SFY2015 through 2021, the method by which they came into the adult court system, their sex, race/ethnicity, county, their first adult offense, prior history in juvenile court, and if they had a subsequent conviction in adult court within two years after their first offense.

Research has generally shown that youth have worse outcomes when they are transferred to the adult justice system rather than being handled in the juvenile court system.¹ Some states have raised the age of juvenile court jurisdiction.² Under current Iowa Code 232.8, youth under age 16 are under the jurisdiction of juvenile court, but can be waived by the juvenile court to the adult court. Included within the group of waived youth are Youthful Offenders, under Iowa Code 232.45, who are between the ages of 12 to 15. Youth aged 16 and 17 are directly filed to adult court if they have serious offenses, including forcible felonies, felony weapons offenses, and serious drug offenses, but can be reverse waived back to the juvenile court. Three groups were studied: “Waived” youth, “Direct” File youth, and “Other” youth in adult court. Their characteristics and outcomes are described below.

Please note that, in a small number of cases, long durations of time between the offense date and adult case initiation date occurred. Only 138 of the 3,312 youth in the file (4.2%) had one or more years pass between the offense date and case initiation date. Of those youth, 51% were sex offenders. This may be due to victims not coming forward until much later.

From SFY2015 to SFY2021, 1,027 youth were “Direct Filed” to adult court.

- 90.7% were male.
- 43.8% were Black.
- The average age at first adult case initiation was 16.7 years (range: 16 to 21 years).
- 85.9% of direct file youth had a violent offense as their first, most serious adult charge.³
- 27.1% were convicted of their first, most serious adult charge.
- 22.4% were reverse waived from adult court to juvenile court.
- 84.0% had a prior juvenile court complaint before entering the adult court system.
- 44.2% subsequently had a conviction of simple misdemeanor or higher in adult court within two years of their first adult offense.

From SFY2015 to SFY2021, 1,284 youth were “Waived” to adult court.

¹ “Effects on Violence of Laws and Policies Facilitating the Transfer of Youth from the Juvenile to the Adult Justice System: A Report on Recommendations of the Task Force on Community Preventive Services”, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (Nov. 30, 2007), <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5609.pdf>.

² “Raise the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System.” Justice Polity Institute (2017), <http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/raisetheage.fullreport.pdf>.

³ All direct file youth had a felony offense as their first, most serious charge in adult court, per the requirements set by Iowa Code.

- 81.4% were male.
- 31.6% were Black.
- The average age at first adult case initiation was 17.1 years (range: 12 to 19 years). Please note that the “Waived” group includes 38 youth age 12 to 15 who may have qualified for the Youthful Offenders status under Iowa Code.
- 34.5% of waived youth had a felony offense as their first, most serious adult charge.
- 22.8% of waived Youth had a violent offense as their first, most serious adult charge.
- 51.9% were convicted of their first, most serious adult charge.⁴
- 68.7% subsequently had a conviction of simple misdemeanor or higher in adult court within two years of their first adult offense.

Of “Other” youth who were neither waived nor direct filed to adult court from SFY2015 to SFY2021, 265 were under the age of 18 at the time of adult case initiation.

- 63.4% were male.
- 24.9% were Black.
- The average age at first adult case initiation was 16.4 years (range: 8 to 17 years).
- 29.8% of other youth under age 18 had a felony offense as their first, most serious adult charge.
- 31.7% of other youth under age 18 had a violent offense as their first, most serious adult charge.
- 30.2% were convicted of their first, most serious adult charge.
- 66.0% had a prior juvenile court complaint before entering the adult court system.
- 21.5% subsequently had a conviction of simple misdemeanor or higher in adult court within two years of their first adult offense.

Of “Other” youth who were neither waived nor direct filed to adult court from SFY2015 to SFY2021, 735 were age 18 or older at the time of adult case initiation.

- 69.3% were male.
- 27.8% were Black.
- The average age at first adult case initiation was 18.0 years (range: 18 to 21 years).
- 25.2% of other youth age 18 or older had a felony offense as their first, most serious adult charge.
- 17.8% of other youth age 18 or older had a violent offense as their first, most serious adult charge.
- 42.3% were convicted of their first, most serious adult charge.
- 75.1% had a prior juvenile court complaint before entering the adult court system.
- 49.5% subsequently had a conviction of simple misdemeanor or higher in adult court within two years of their first adult offense.

⁴ All waiver youth had a prior juvenile court complaint before entering the adult court system, which can be explained by them having been waived from juvenile court to adult court.

Key Findings

Based on the SFY2015-SFY2021 reporting period:

Entry into Adult Court

- 38.8% of youth in the adult court system were waived, 31.0% were direct filed, and 30.2% were other. The percentage of waived youth has decreased overtime, whereas the percentage of direct file youth has increased over time.

Counties with the Highest Rates of youth in Adult Court

- The top six counties having the highest rates of their youth in adult court per 10,000 population were: Hardin (286.1), Des Moines (243.2), Monona (219.8), Lee (197.0), Black Hawk (182.5), and Scott (181.9). Only two of these counties, Black Hawk and Scott, are metropolitan areas.

Demographic Profile of youth in Adult Court

- 80.1% of youth in the adult court system were male. Of the youth who were direct filed (90.7% were male, and 81.4% were male that were waived to adult court.
- Racial disparities are evident among youth involved in adult court. 34.0% of youth in adult court were Black, but Black youth comprise only 7.3% of the state's total youth population. Of the direct filed youth 43.8% were Black, and 31.6% of the waived youth were Black.
- The average age of youth's first adult court involvement, based on the date the case was initiated in adult court, was 17.1 years. Direct file youth, on average, were younger than waiver youth (16.7 years vs. 17.1 years).

Characteristics of the First Adult Offense

- All direct file youth had a felony charge, per the eligibility requirements set by Iowa Code. 34.5% of waived youth had a felony charge as their first adult offense. The percentage of waived youth with a felony charge (waiver offense) has trended upwards over time, increasing from 26.9% in SFY2015 to 42.4% in SFY2021.
- All direct file youth had a violent charge (85.9%) or public order charge (14.1%) as their direct file offense, per the eligibility requirements set by Iowa Code. The most common waiver charge for waived youth was property (42.9%), followed by drug (23.1%), violent (22.8%), and public order (10.4%).
- Waived youth were more likely to be found guilty of their first adult offense (51.9%) compared to direct file youth (27.1%). A higher percentage of direct file youth had other/unknown dispositions (34.7%). Other dispositions include change of venue, not filed, other, transferred, or waiver stipulation. 22.4% of direct file youth were reverse waived from adult court to juvenile court.
- There has been a downward trend in the percentage of youth found guilty. There has been an upward trend in deferred dispositions.

Prior Juvenile History

- 86.8% of the youth who entered adult court had a prior complaint in the juvenile court system. Among the categories, waiver youth, on average, had more complaints than direct file youth (6.4 complaints vs. 5.6 complaints).

- The average age of youth's first juvenile complaint, based on the date the complaint was initiated in juvenile court, was 14.0 years.
- Direct file and waiver youth were about the same age (an average of 13.9 years and 13.8 years, respectively) at the time of their first juvenile complaint.

Recidivism within Two years

- Recidivism was tracked for youth in the cohort, who had at least two years of time pass after their first adult offense. Only their most serious convicting offense was examined. 53.4% of the youth in the cohort had a subsequent conviction in adult court (excluding scheduled violations). Of the categories, 68.7% of the waived youth recidivated (68.7%), and 44.2% of direct file youth recidivated. Please note that the recidivism rate for direct file youth may be lower due to having a more serious offense that may have resulted in incarceration during the 2 year period. 27.1% of the direct file youth were convicted of their direct file offense. Those not convicted of their direct file offense may have been convicted of other serious offenses. This would likely have eliminated or reduced their opportunity to recidivate in the tracking period.
- Of the youth who recidivated, 38.3% had a subsequent felony conviction as their most serious recidivist conviction. Direct file youth were more likely to have a subsequent felony conviction (48.8%) compared to waiver youth (36.6%).
- Of the youth who recidivated, direct file youth were more likely to have a subsequent violent conviction (36.6%) compared to waiver youth (25.4%) as their most serious recidivist conviction.

Methodology

Youth were identified using Iowa Courts Case Management System (CMS) data extracted from the Iowa Justice Data Warehouse (JDW). The cohort of youth from SFY2015 to SFY2019 were obtained from the previous study. This data was updated to include youth from SFY2020-2021 who were found to be in Adult Criminal Court and were under age 18 at the time of their offense. A total of 3,311 youth were identified in the seven year time period. Youth were then matched to the Juvenile Court Services (JCS) data by name and date of birth. The match process found 2,874 of the 3,311 youth (86.8%) in the JCS data. Despite the efforts to identify matches by using combinations of first name, last name, and date of birth, a match wouldn't have been identified if at least two of these variables did not match. Furthermore, 221 of the 437 unmatched youth (50.6%) were already age 18 by the time of case initiation in adult court, so it is possible that paperwork simply did not get filed in juvenile court due to their age. Another reason for not matching is for those youth who never had a referral or complaint in juvenile court services and were handled in adult court only.

From a list of all offenses committed by youth under the age of 18 and processed in adult court, their original adult charge was identified using the **first** date of case initiation in adult court. If youth had multiple charges initiated on the same date, the most serious charge was analyzed for the report.

Youth were excluded from the cohort if they **only had** charges in adult court lower than a simple misdemeanor, low-level traffic violations, violations of parole or probation, fugitive from justice, material witness, JCS-purchase of alcohol, providing tobacco to a minor – 1st offense, or violation of compulsory education mediation agreement.

Study groups were identified for each youth based on the type of charge, presence of a waiver to adult court, and age. The groups were assigned in a stepwise process in the order listed below. If a youth matched the first category, they would not be included in the next category.

- Direct File Youth: **Any** adult charge on the **first** case initiated date met the requirements for direct file as identified in Iowa Code 232.8. This includes forcible felonies, felony weapons offenses, and certain felony drug offenses. (n=1,027)
- Waiver Youth: The youth was identified as having been waived to adult court by the entry of a waiver JCS event code, an adjudication, or an intake decision. (n=1,284)
- Other Youth: Youth who were not eligible for a direct file and were not found in the JCS data system or did not have a juvenile record indicating a waiver had taken place. This group was further subcategorized based on their age at the time of adult case initiation. (n=1,000)
 - Youth who were under age 18 at the time of adult case initiation. (n=265)
 - Youth who were over age 18 at the time of adult case initiation. (n=735)

The methodology of the current report matches as closely as possible to that used in the previous report. Please note, however, that the counts were updated and may not exactly match what was provided previously. Of the cases collected from the earlier database, the original group categories for 189 youth out of 2,518 (7.5%) were recoded based on the original adult offense identified. The current dataset queried all juvenile and adult records for each youth, whereas the prior included criminal history data for a smaller window of time. As a result, 42 youth in the prior dataset were excluded after being identified as having a first adult offense prior to 2015, and 2 youth were excluded due to not having committed an offense committed as a youth that was charged in adult court. Also, 10 cases were

excluded from the earlier database because the youth were identified as being in the dataset more than once. Please see Table 1 in the Appendix for the number of youth in the cohort, by state fiscal year.

Results (SFY2015-SFY2021)

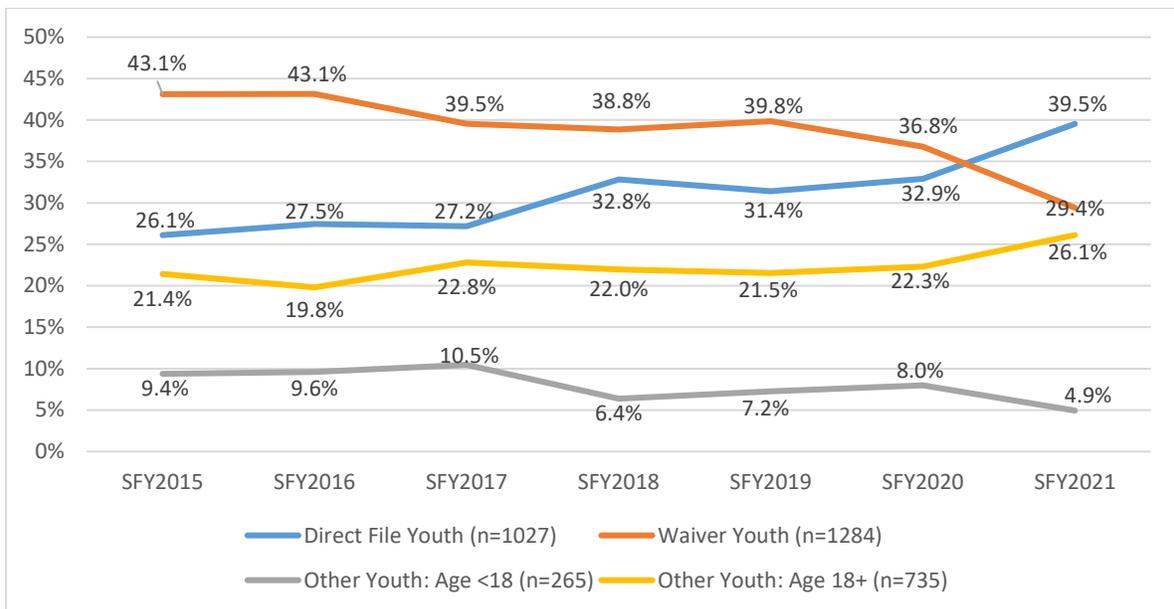
Results provided in the following sections are for the SFY2015- 2021 timeframe. All youth studied had charges in the adult court system and were under age 18 at the time of their offense, however, may have been over age 18 at the time of case initiation. Information is provided on their demographics, the method by which they came into the adult court system, their first adult offense, prior history in juvenile court, and if they had a subsequent conviction in adult court within two years after their first offense.

Waiver, Direct File, and Other Youth

38.8% of youth in the adult court system were waived, 31.0% were direct filed, and 30.2% were other.

Figure 1 shows the percentage within each Category and State Fiscal Year. The percentage of waived youth has decreased over time, whereas the percentage of direct file youth has increased over time.

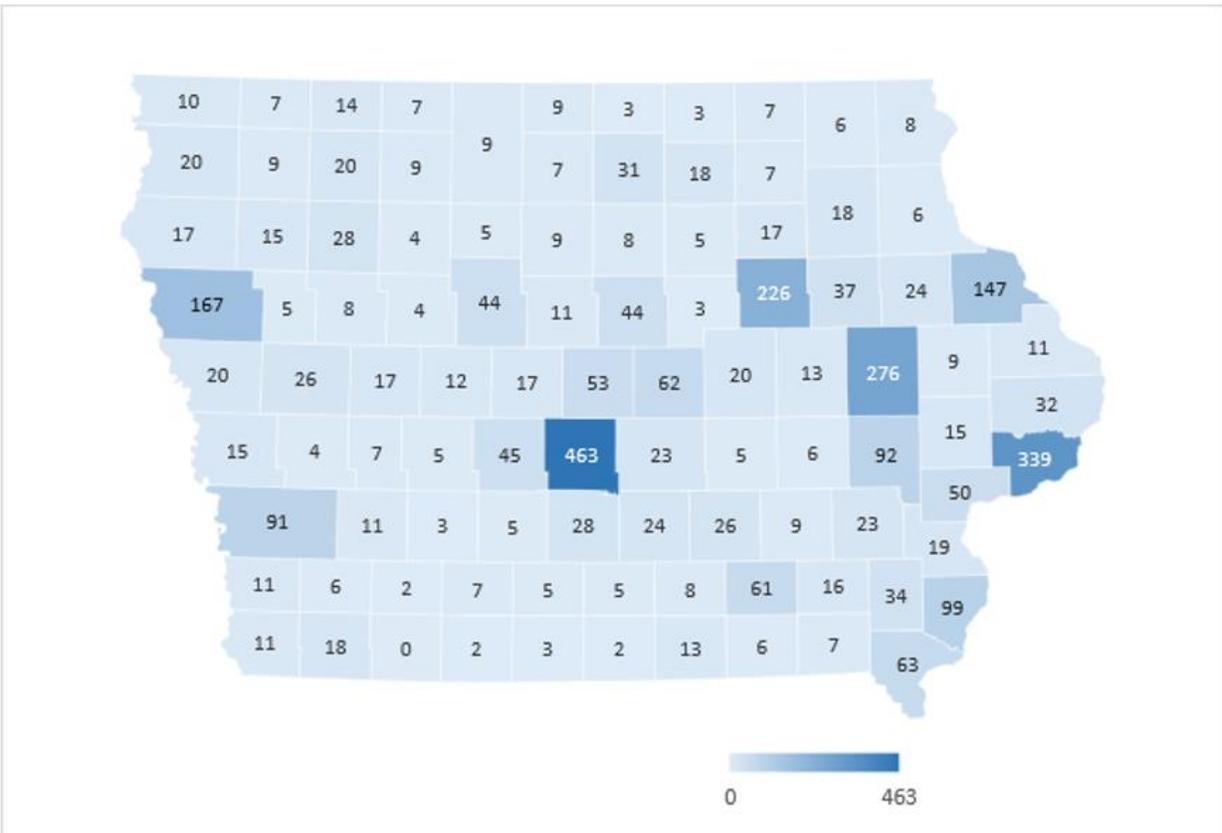
Figure 1: Percentage of Youth by Category and State Fiscal Year



County

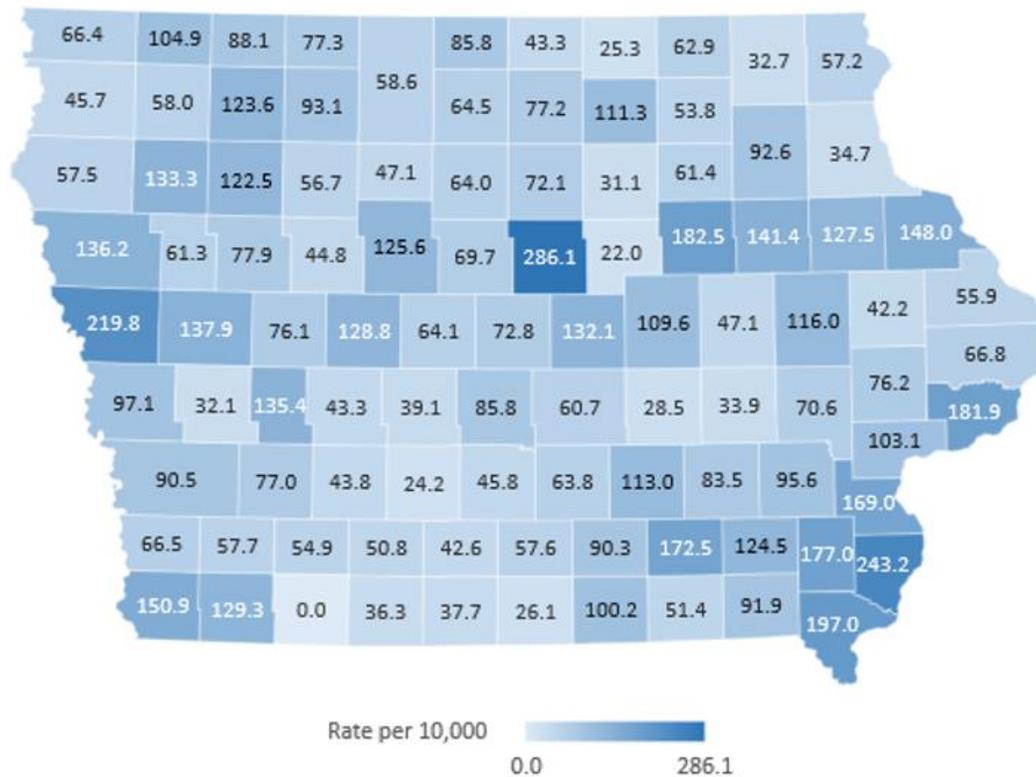
The number of youth who entered adult court are provided for each county from SFY2015 to SFY2021. Figure 2 highlights the counties with the highest number of youth in adult court. The top six counties with the highest raw number of youth in adult court were: Polk (n=463), Scott (n=339), Linn (n=276), Black Hawk (n=226), Woodbury (n=167), and Dubuque (n=147).

Figure 2: Count of Youth in Adult Court, by County



Urban counties are likely expected to have higher raw counts, but examining rates factors in the differences among counties' total youth populations.⁵ Each county's total 2020 youth population aged 10-17 were examined. Figure 3 highlights the counties having the highest rates of their youth involved in adult court per 10,000 population. The top six counties were: Hardin (286.1), Des Moines (243.2), Monona (219.8), Lee (197.0), Black Hawk (182.5), and Scott (181.9). Only two of these counties, Black Hawk and Scott, are metropolitan areas.

Figure 3: Rates of Youth in Adult Court per 10,000 Population, by County



⁵ Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2021). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020." Online. Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>

Sex

80.1% of youth in the adult court system were male, 18.2% were female, and 1.7% were unknown.

Figure 4 shows the percentages of male and female youth in adult court in each category. Males are more likely to be direct filed to adult court (90.7%) and waived (81.4%).

Figure 4: Sex of Youth in Each Category

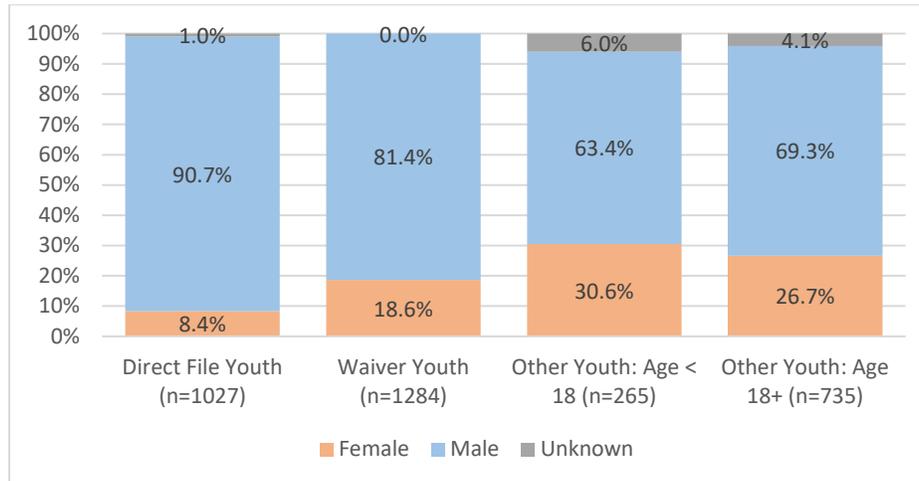


Figure 2, in the Appendix, shows the changes in percentages of males and females in each category over time. Although there is some fluctuation within the categories over the years, the overall trend is that, of the categories, males are more likely to be direct filed to adult court and waived.

Race/Ethnicity

During the reporting period, 53.6% of youth in the adult court system were White, 34.0% were Black, 7.2% were Hispanic, and 5.2% were Other/Unknown. Figure 5 compares the race/ethnicity of adult court-involved youth with the state's 2020 youth population age 10-17. This highlights racial disparities among Black youth involved in adult court. 34.0% of youth in adult court were Black, but Black youth comprise only 7.3% of the state's youth population.⁶

Figure 5: Race/Ethnicity of Youth in Adult Court Compared to Youth Statewide

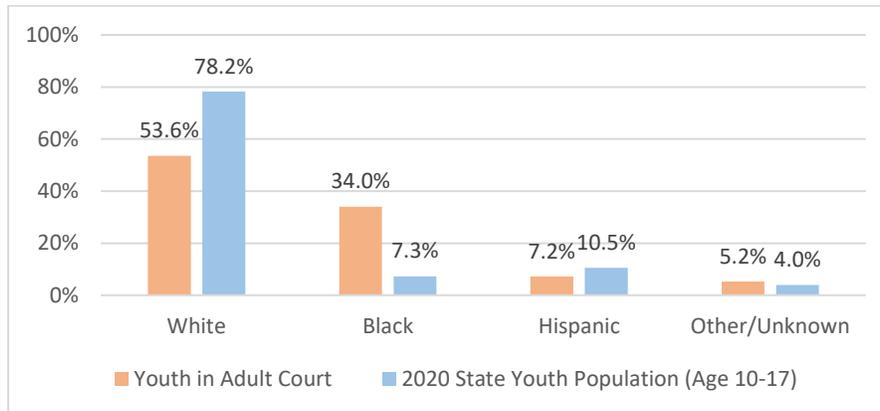
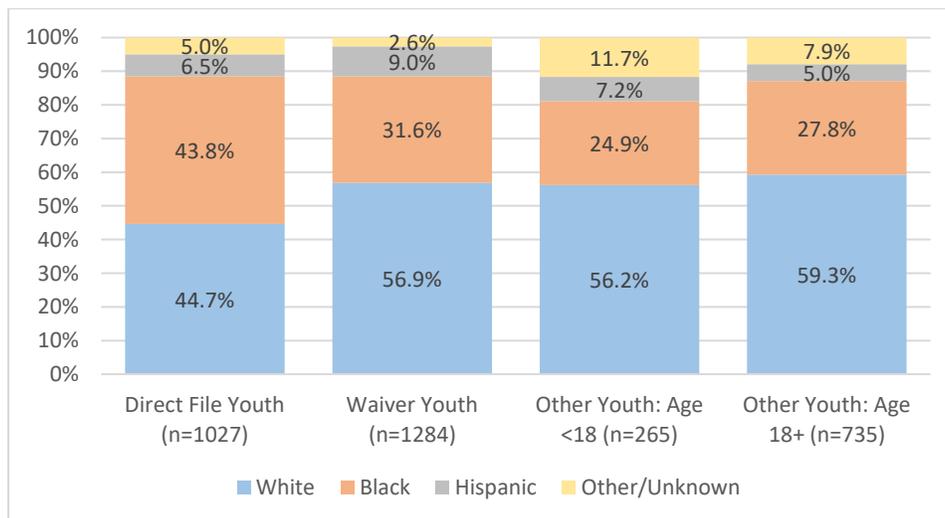


Figure 6 shows the percentages of White, Black, Hispanic, and Other/Unknown youth in adult court in each category. Direct file youth were most likely to be White (44.7%), however, Black youth were over-represented (43.8%). Waived youth were most likely to be White (56.9%), and Black youth were over-represented (31.6%). Other youth: Age <18 were most likely to be White (56.2%), and Black youth were over-represented (24.9%). Other youth: Age 18+ were most likely to be White (59.3%), and Black youth were over-represented (27.8%).

Figure 6: Race/Ethnicity of Youth in Each Category



⁶ Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2021). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020." Online. Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>

Figure 7 shows the race/ethnicity of females in adult court in each category. In all categories, female youth were most likely to be White, however, Blacks were overrepresented. Of the categories, direct file female youth had the highest percentage of Blacks (41.9%).

Figure 7: Race/Ethnicity of Female Youth in Adult Court in Each Category

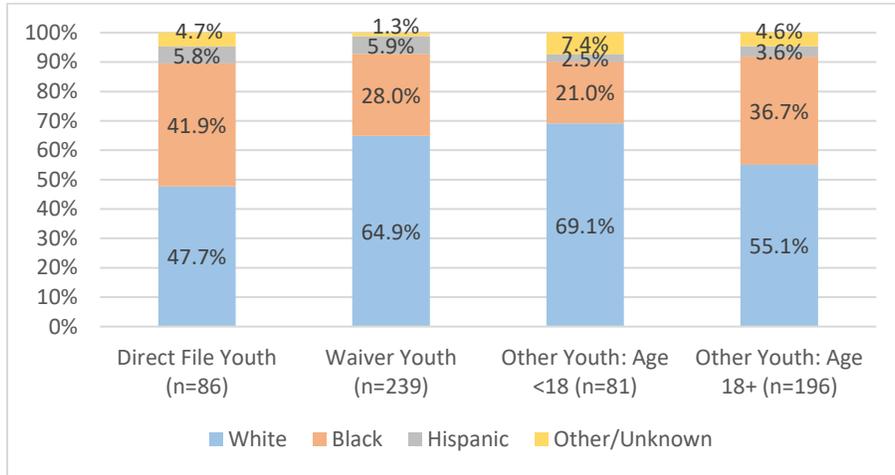


Figure 8 shows the race/ethnicity of males in adult court in each category. In all categories, male youth were most likely to be White, however, Blacks were overrepresented. Of the categories, direct file male youth had the highest percentage of Blacks (44.5%).

Figure 8: Race/Ethnicity of Male Youth in Adult Court in Each Category

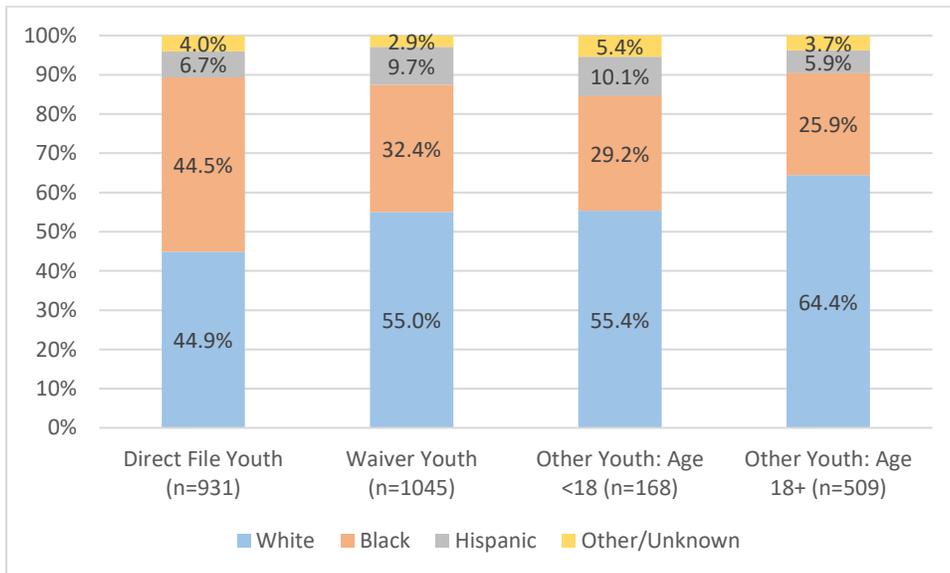


Figure 3, in the Appendix, shows the changes in percentages of White, Black, Hispanic, and Other/Unknown in each category over time. Although there was some fluctuation within the categories over the years, the overall trend is that, of the categories, there are more White youth being direct filed and waived to adult court, however, Black youth are overrepresented in both categories. The highest percentages of Blacks are direct filed to adult court.

Age at First Adult Court Involvement

The average age of youth's first adult court involvement, based on the date the case was initiated in adult court, was 17.1 years.

Figure 9 shows the average age of the youth's first adult court involvement for each category. Direct file youth, on average, were younger than waiver youth (16.7 years vs. 17.1 years).

Figure 9: Average Age (in Years) for Youth's First Adult Court Involvement, by Category

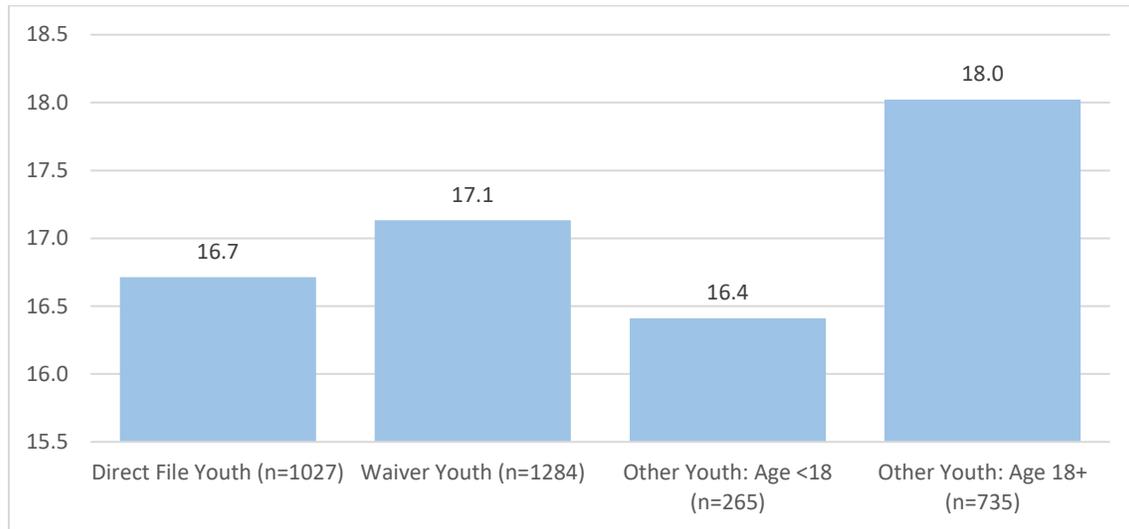


Figure 4, in the Appendix, shows the average age of first adult court involvement for youth in each category, by State Fiscal Year. The average age has remained steady over time.

Adult Court Offense Class

52.4% of youth entering the adult court system had a felony charge, 47.2% had a misdemeanor charge, and 0.5% had another charge as their most serious charge on the first adult case initiation date.

Figure 10 shows the percentages of youth in each category who entered adult court on a felony charge, misdemeanor charge, or other charge. All direct file youth had a felony charge, per the eligibility requirements set by Iowa Code. 34.5% of waived youth had a felony charge.

Figure 10: Adult Court Charge Class for Youth in Each Category

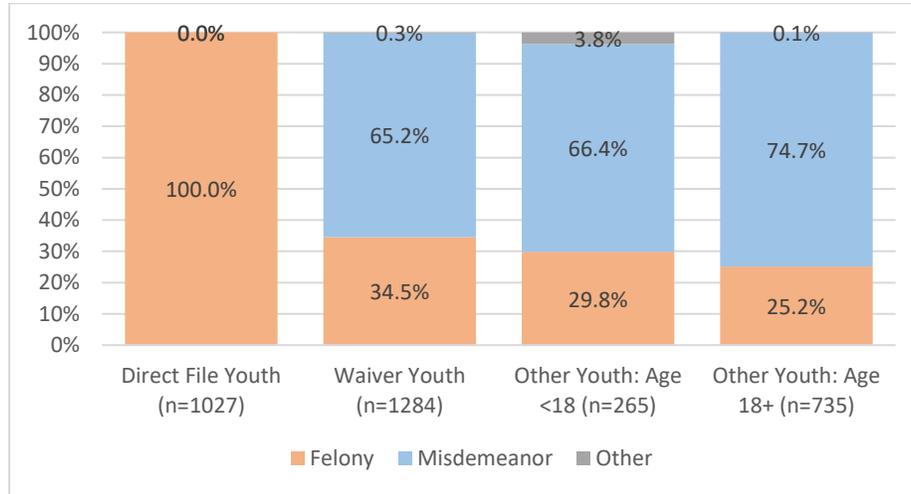
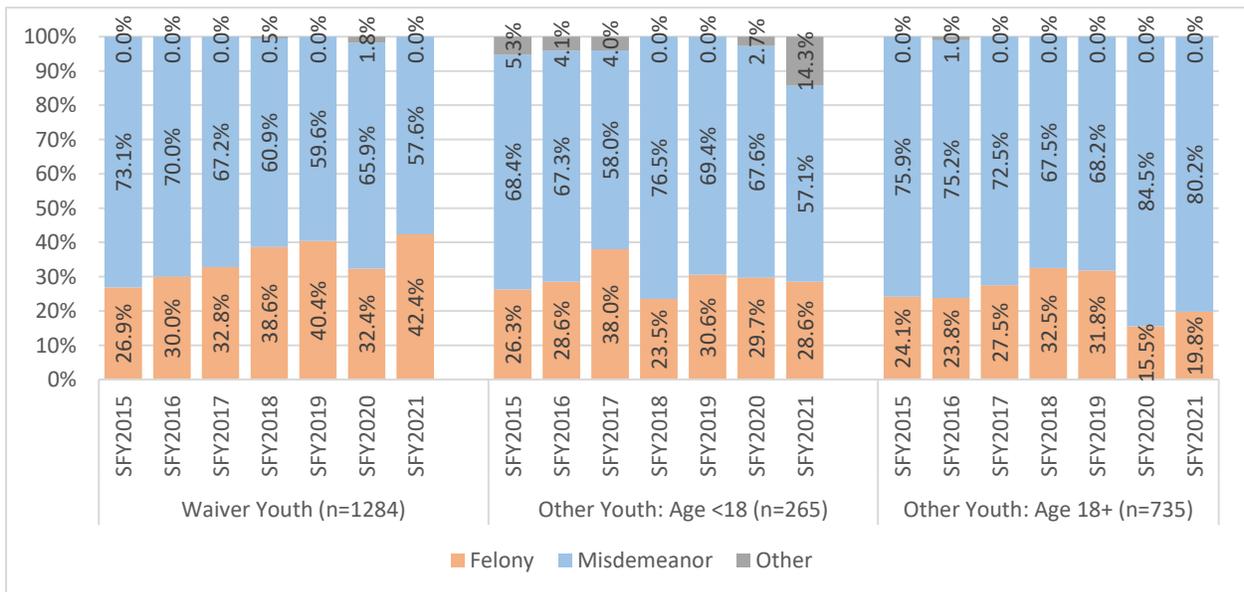


Figure 11 shows the charge class for which youth in each category entered adult court, by State Fiscal Year. Direct file youth are excluded, since they all had a felony charge. The percentage of waived youth with a felony charge has trended upwards over time, increasing from 26.9% in SFY2015 to 42.4% in SFY2021.

Figure 11: Adult Court Charge Class for Youth in Each Category, by Fiscal Year



Adult Court Offense Type

42.0% of youth entering the adult court system had a violent charge, 28.9% had a property charge, 16.3% had a drug charge, 12.1% had a public order charge, and 0.7% had another charge as their most serious charge on the first adult case initiation date. Examples of each charge type are provided below:

- Violent: “Violent crime” means a forcible felony, as defined in section 702.11, and includes any other felony or aggravated misdemeanor which involved the actual or threatened infliction of physical or emotional injury on one or more persons.⁷ Examples include murder/manslaughter, kidnapping, sex crimes, assault, and robbery.
- Property: arson, burglary, forgery/fraud, theft, and vandalism.
- Drug: possession and trafficking.
- Public Order: alcohol, operating while intoxicated, prostitution/pimping, tobacco, traffic, and weapons.
- Other: animal neglect, ongoing criminal conduct, conspiracy to commit an offense, gang participation, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Figure 12 shows the percentages of youth in each category who entered adult court on a violent charge, property charge, drug charge, public order charge, or other charge. All direct file youth had a violent charge (85.9%) or public order (weapons) charge (14.1%), per the eligibility requirements set by Iowa Code. The most common charge for waived youth was property (42.9%), followed by drug (23.1%), violent (22.8%), and public order (10.4%).

Figure 12: Adult Court Charge Type for Youth in Each Category

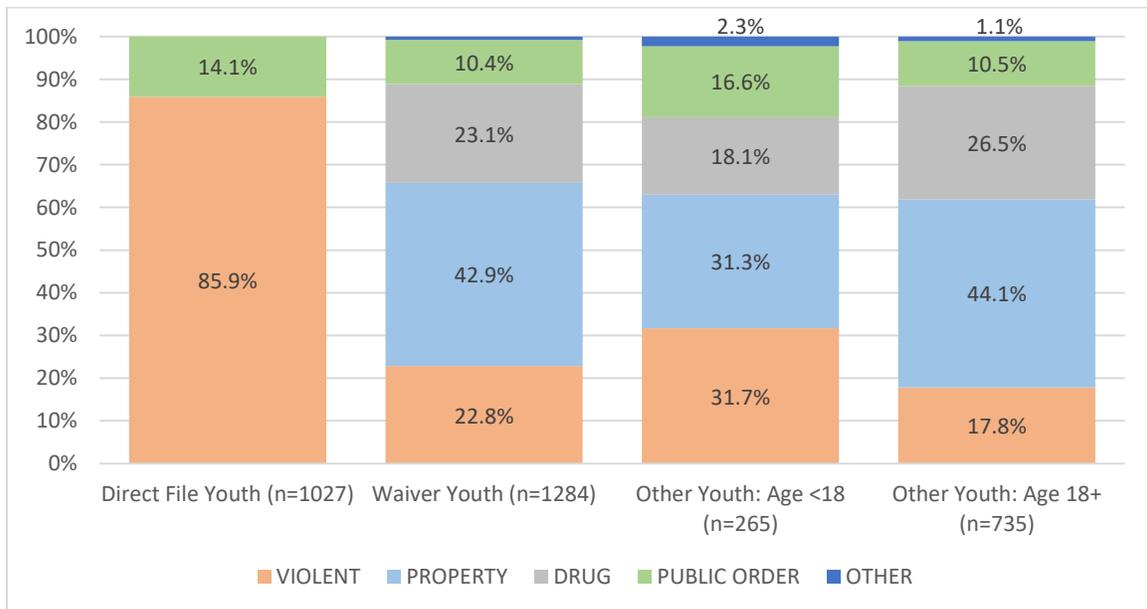


Figure 5, in the Appendix, shows the charge type for which youth in each category entered adult court, by State Fiscal Year. The percentages have fluctuated over time.

⁷ Iowa Code 915.10(5)

Figure 13 shows the first, most serious adult offense class of females in adult court in each category. 97.7% of female direct file youth had a violent charge, per the direct file requirements set forth by Iowa Code. The most common charge type for females in the other three categories was property (42.3% of Waiver youth, 45.7% Other Youth Age < 18, and 49.0% Other Youth Age 18+).

Figure 13: Adult Court Charge Type for Female Youth in Each Category

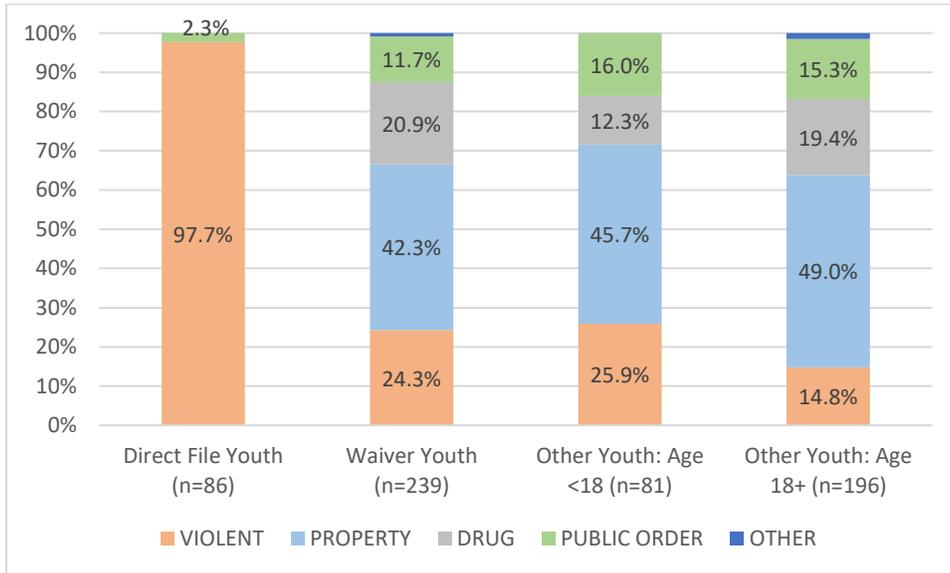
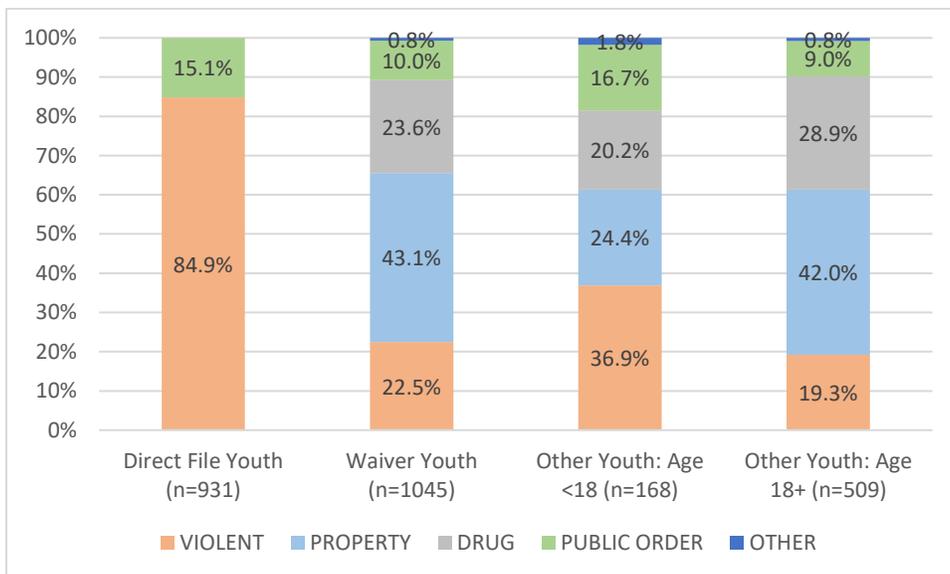


Figure 14 shows the first, most serious adult offense class of males in adult court in each category. 84.9% of male direct file youth had a violent charge and 15.1% had a public order (weapons) charge, per the direct file requirements set forth by Iowa Code. The most common charge type for males in the waived and other age 18+ categories was property (43.1% and 42.0%, respectively).

Figure 14: Adult Court Charge Type for Male Youth in Each Category

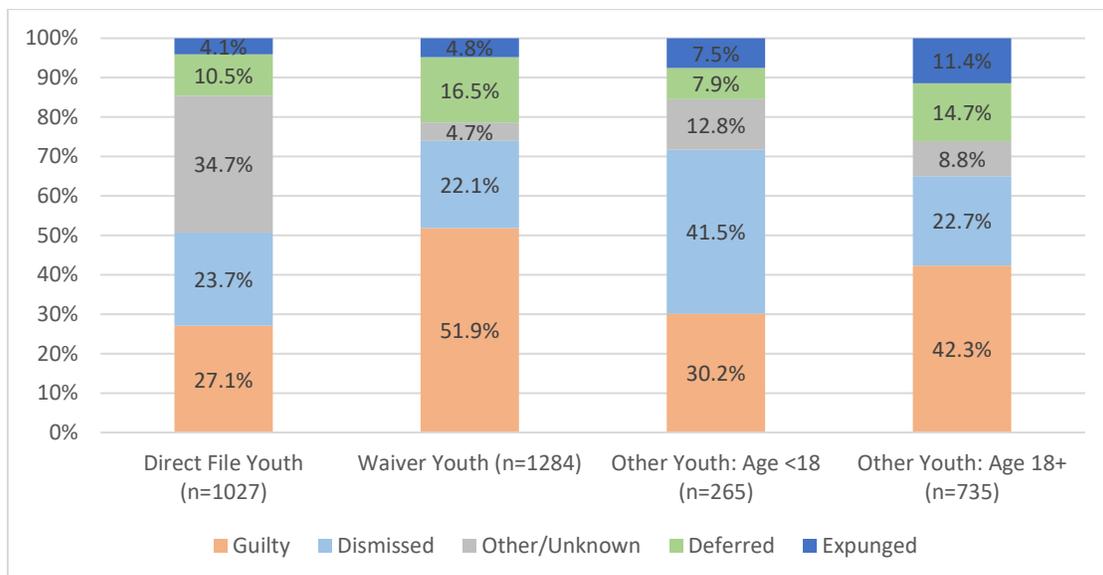


Disposition of Adult Court Offense

40.3% of youth entering the adult court system were found guilty on their first, most serious charge, 24.3% were dismissed, 15.6% were of other/unknown disposition, 13.6% were deferred, and 6.3% were expunged.

Figure 15 shows the percentages of youth in each category and the disposition of their first, most serious charge in adult court. Of the categories, waived youth were more likely to be found guilty (51.9%) than direct file youth (27.1%) or other youth (30.2% age < 18; 42.3% age 18+). In the other youth category, youth younger than age 18 at the time of their offense were more likely to be dismissed (41.5%) compared to older youth (22.7%). A higher percentage of direct file youth had other/unknown dispositions (34.7%). Other dispositions include change of venue, not filed, other, transferred, or waiver stipulation.

Figure 15: Adult Charge Disposition for Youth in Each Category



“Other/Unknown” Disposition includes continued by county attorney/court, change of venue, continued waiver, charges not filed, other adjudication (reverse waiver), transferred, and waiver stipulation.

Figure 16 shows the percentages of youth in each category and the disposition of their first, most serious charge in adult court, by State Fiscal Year. Over the seven-year time period, all categories have seen a downward trend in the percentage of youth found guilty. There has been an upward trend in deferred dispositions. Other/unknown spiked in SFY2021 while dismissed fell that year, but this could be due to the COVID-19 pandemic because earlier years were relatively stable.

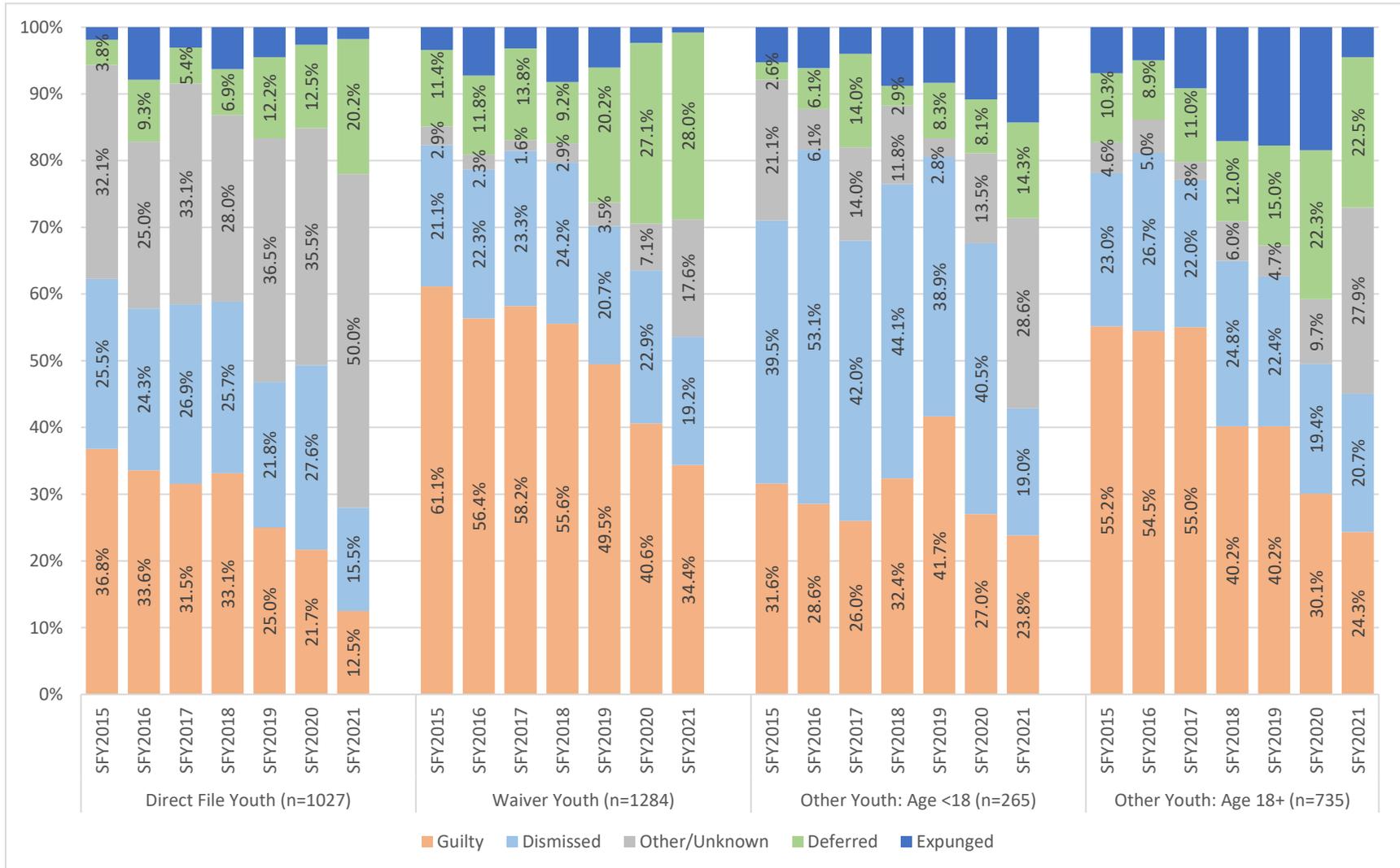
For direct file youth from SFY2015 to SFY 2021:

- Guilty decreased from 36.8% to 12.5%,
- Deferred increased from 3.8% to 20.2%

For waived youth from SFY2015 to SFY2021:

- Guilty decreased from 61.1% to 34.4%,
- Deferred increased from 11.4% to 28.0%

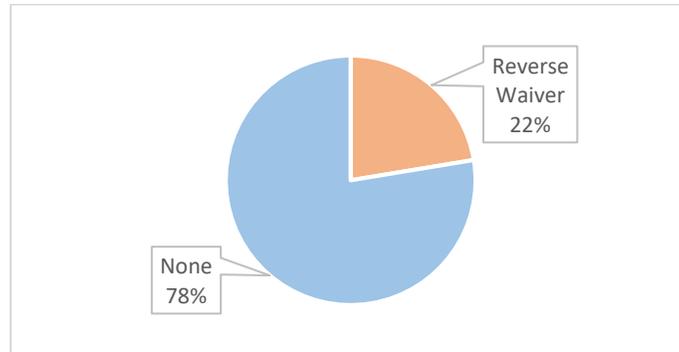
Figure 16: Adult Charge Disposition for Youth in Each Category, by Fiscal Year



Direct File Reverse Waiver Youth

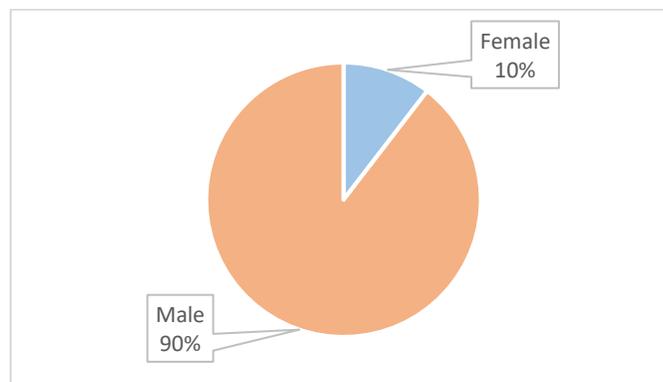
Of the direct file youth, 22.4% (230/1027) were reverse waived from adult court to juvenile court.

Figure 17: Reverse Waivers among Direct File Youth



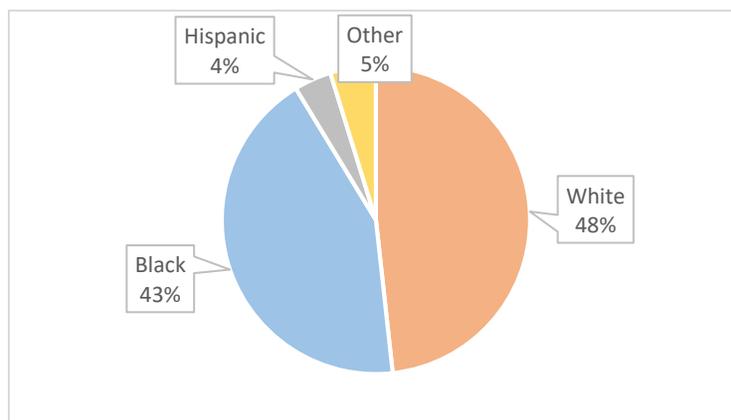
Of the direct file youth who were reverse waived, 89.6% (206/230) were male and 10.4% (24/230) were female.

Figure 18: Sex of Reverse Waiver Youth



Of the direct file youth who were reverse waived, 48.3% (111/230) were White, 43.0% (99/230) were Black, 3.9% (9/230) were Hispanic, and 4.8% (11/230) were Other.

Figure 19: Race/Ethnicity of Reverse Waiver Youth



Prior History of Juvenile Complaints

86.8% of the youth who entered adult court had a prior complaint in the juvenile court system. A prior juvenile complaint was not found for 13.2% of the youth. [Please note that not all juvenile records may have been located, if a match on name and date of birth was not found for the youth due to name discrepancies in recording data in adult and juvenile court, changes in name, or court data entry errors]. Among youth with a prior juvenile history, they averaged a total of 5.5 complaints in juvenile court.

Figure 20 shows the percentage of youth in each category who had a prior complaint in the juvenile court system. 84.0% of direct file youth had a prior juvenile complaint. All of the waiver youth had a prior juvenile complaint, which can be explained by them having been waived from juvenile court to adult court.

Figure 20: Percentage of Youth with a Prior Juvenile Complaint in Each Category

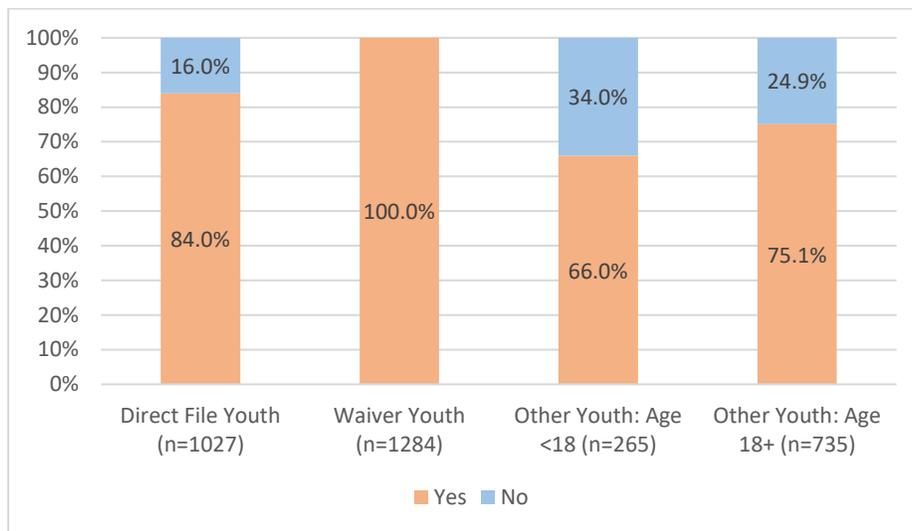
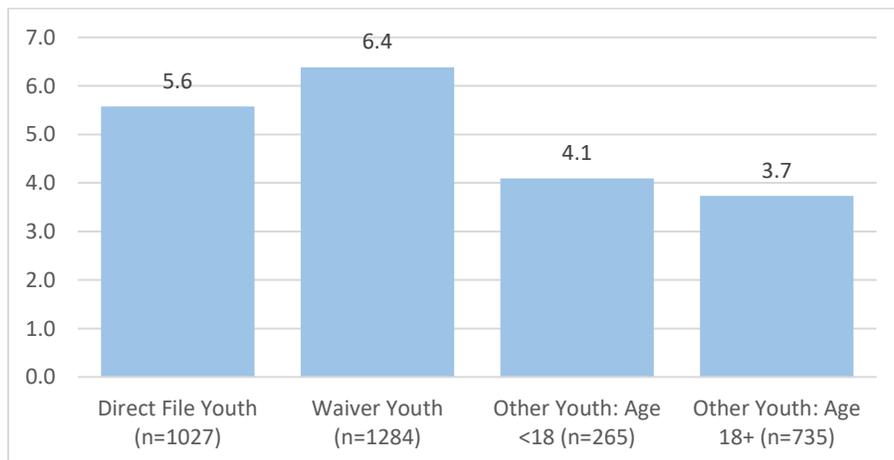


Figure 21 shows the average number of complaints in juvenile court for each category. Waiver youth, on average, had more complaints than direct file youth (6.4 complaints vs. 5.6 complaints). Other youth averaged the fewest number of complaints (3.8 complaints, combined average).

Figure 21: Average Number of Complaints in Juvenile Court for Youth in Each Category

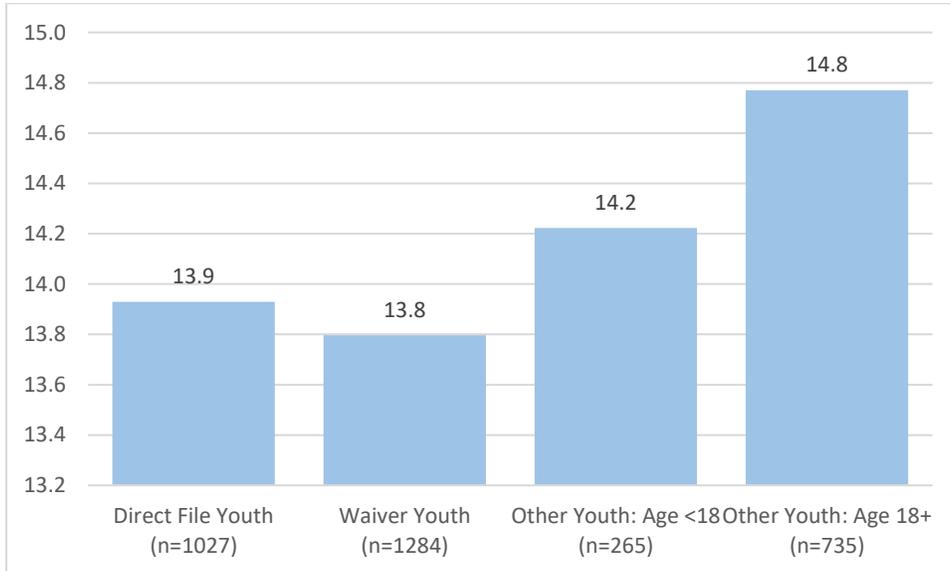


Age at First Juvenile Complaint

The average age of youth's first juvenile complaint, based on the date the complaint was initiated in juvenile court, was 14.0 years.

Figure 22 shows the average age of youth's first juvenile complaint for each category. Direct file and waiver youth were about the same age (13.9 years and 13.8 years). Other youth were older on average (14.6 years, combined average).

Figure 22: Average Age (in Years) of Youth's First Juvenile Complaint, by Category

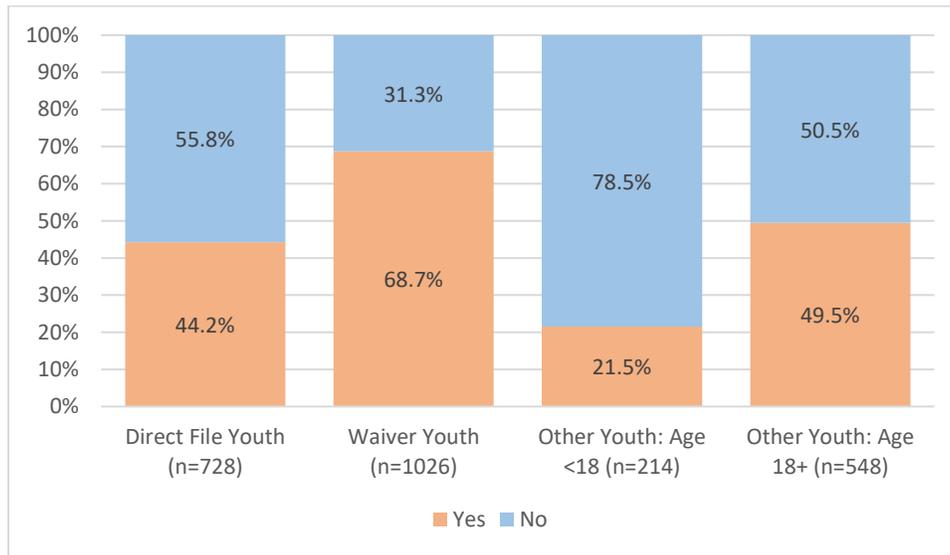


Recidivism (Subsequent Adult Court Conviction)

Recidivism was tracked for 2,516 of the 3,313 youth in the cohort.⁸ Recidivism was measured as a subsequent conviction in adult court with an offense date that occurred within two years following the youth’s first adult offense. Only convictions of simple misdemeanors or higher were examined. If a youth had multiple convictions, only their most serious was examined. 53.4% of the youth in the cohort recidivated, based on this definition.

Figure 23 shows the percentage of youth in each category who recidivated. Of the categories, 68.7% of the youth who were waived recidivated, and 44.2% of direct file youth recidivated.

Figure 23: Percentage of Youth in Each Category who Recidivated within Two Years



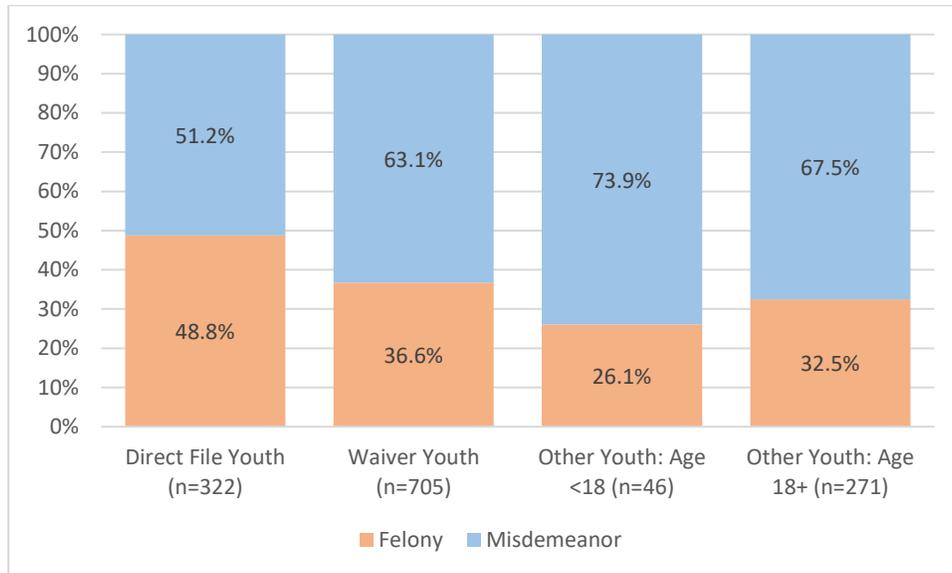
⁸ Only youth who had at least two years of time pass after the offense date of their first adult charge were included in recidivism results.

Recidivism (Subsequent Adult Court Conviction Class)

Of the 1,344 youth who recidivated, 38.3% had a subsequent felony conviction, 61.5% had a misdemeanor conviction, and 0.1% had another conviction as their most serious in adult court.

Figure 24 shows the conviction class of youth in each category who recidivated. Direct file youth were more likely to have a subsequent felony conviction (48.8%) compared to waiver youth (36.6%) or other youth (31.5%, combined group).

Figure 24: Recidivism Conviction Class for Youth in Each Category

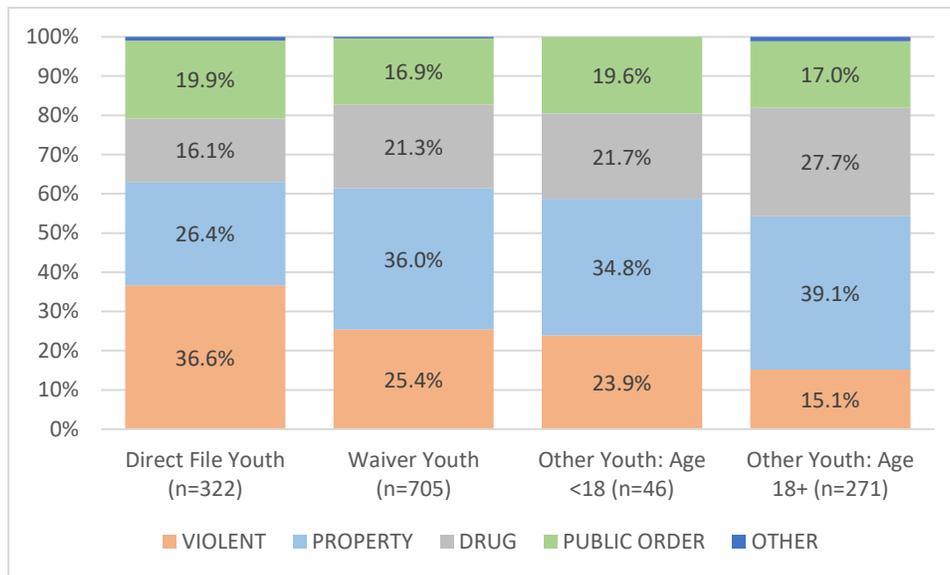


Recidivism (Subsequent Adult Court Conviction Type)

Of the 1,344 youth who recidivated, 34.3% had a subsequent property conviction, 26.0% had a violent conviction, 21.4% had a drug conviction, 17.7% had a public order conviction, and 0.7% had another conviction as their most serious in adult court.

Figure 25 shows the conviction type of youth in each category who recidivated. Direct file youth were more likely to have a subsequent violent conviction (36.6%) compared to waiver youth (25.4%) and other youth (16.4%, combined group).

Figure 25: Recidivism Conviction Type for Youth in Each Category



Appendix

Table 1: Cohort of Youth who received Adult Charge by Category and State Fiscal Year

	SFY2015		SFY2016		SFY2017		SFY2018		SFY2019		SFY2020		SFY2021		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Direct File Youth	106	26.1%	140	27.5%	130	27.2%	175	32.8%	156	31.4%	152	32.9%	168	39.5%	1027	31.0%
Waiver Youth	175	43.1%	220	43.1%	189	39.5%	207	38.8%	198	39.8%	170	36.8%	125	29.4%	1284	38.8%
Other Youth																
<18 at time of the case initiation	38	9.4%	49	9.6%	50	10.5%	34	6.4%	36	7.2%	37	8.0%	21	4.9%	265	8.0%
18+ at time of case initiation	87	21.4%	101	19.8%	109	22.8%	117	22.0%	107	21.5%	103	22.3%	111	26.1%	735	22.2%
Total	406	100%	510	100%	478	100%	533	100%	497	100%	462	100%	425	100%	3311	100%

Figure 2: Sex of Youth in Each Category, by Fiscal Year

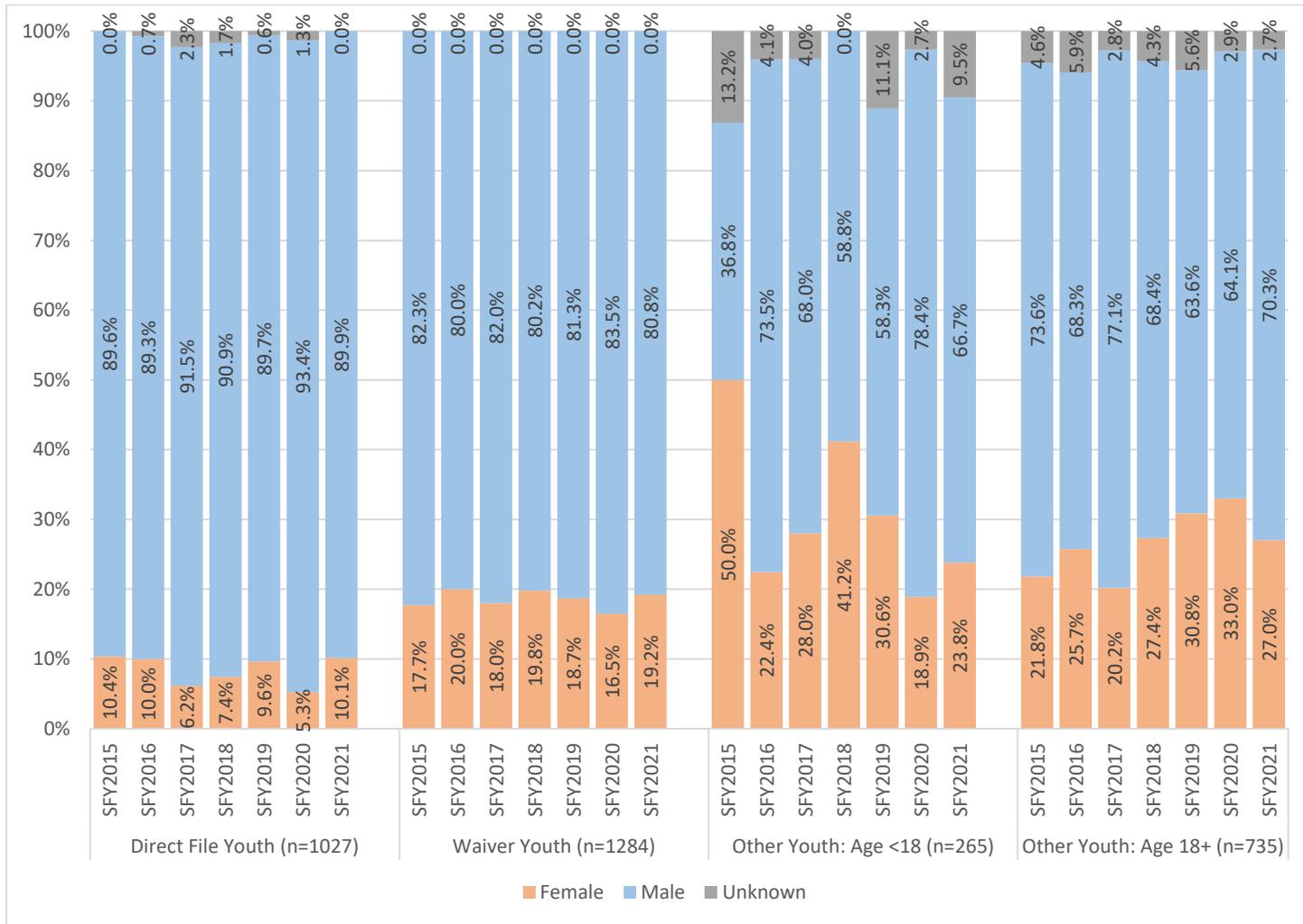


Figure 3: Race/Ethnicity of Youth in Each Category, by Fiscal Year

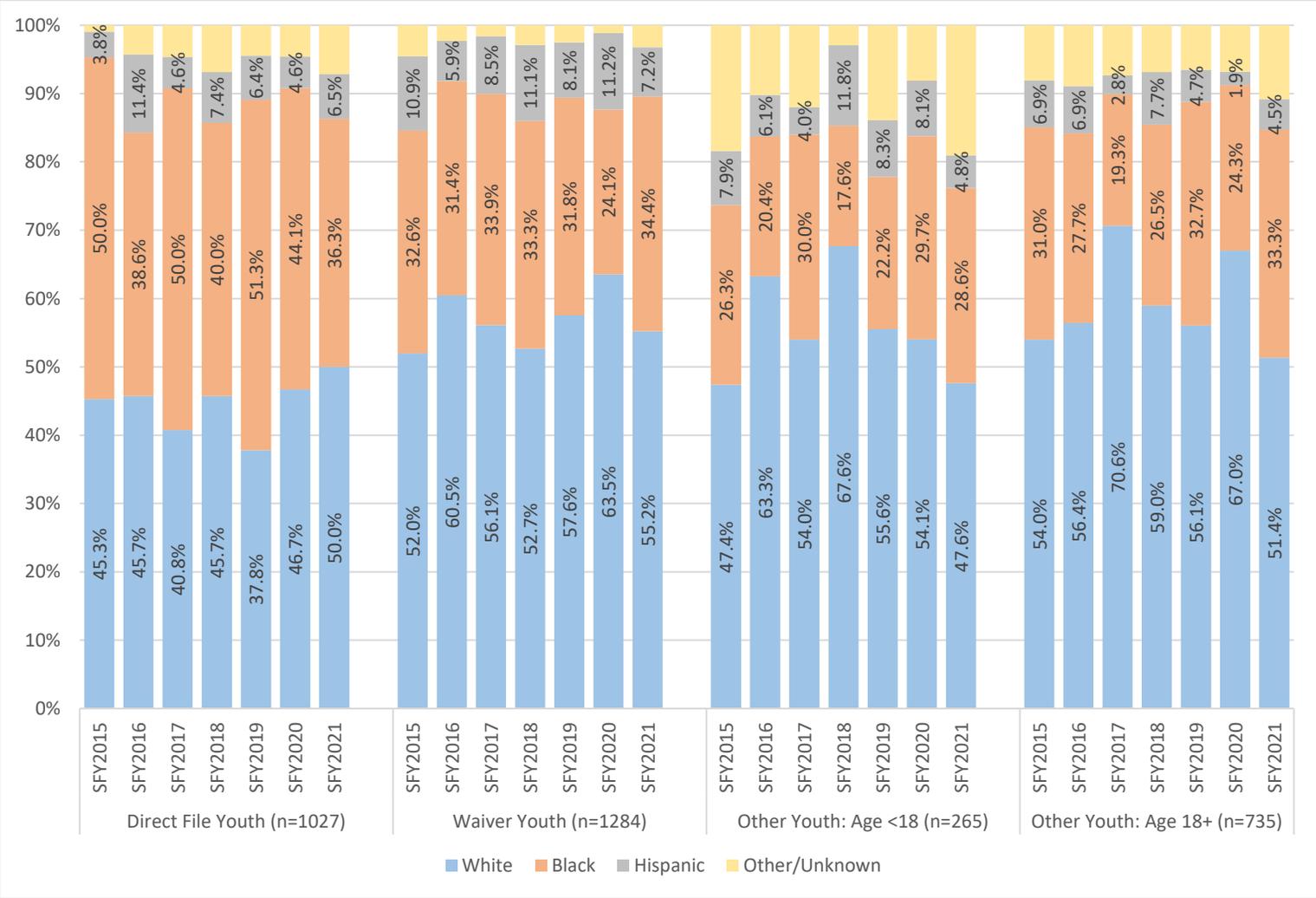


Figure 4: Average Age (in Years) of First Adult Court Involvement for Youth in Each Category, by Fiscal Year

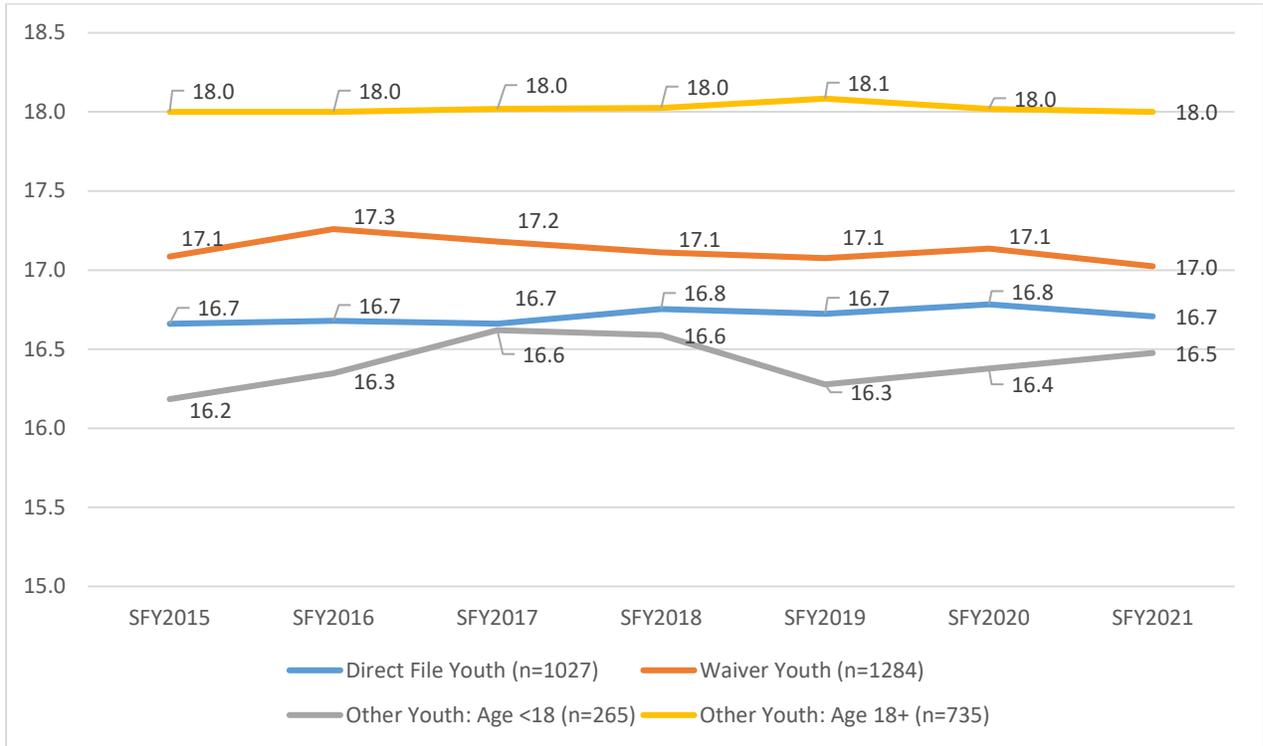


Figure 5: Adult Court Charge Type for Youth in Each Category, by Fiscal Year

