



# Youth Residential Placement 2022 Annual Report



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# Introduction

This 2022 report offers an update on the third year of implementation of the 2019 Youth Residential Placement Task Force Report and Recommendations.<sup>1</sup> The 19 recommendations pertain to five key areas of work: System Improvements, Reduce the Use, Improve Quality, Improve Safety, and Improve Education. They were developed by 25 systems leaders, advocates, elected officials, legal experts, and individuals with lived experience who interact with or have interacted with residential placement.

During 2022, Philadelphia youth in residential placement continued to navigate the complex landscape of interacting with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The systems who serve youth in residential placement remained dedicated to holding the youth experience at the center of their work. Implementation focused on building more connected resources, implementing upstream solutions, and increasing supports in the community. During this third year of implementation of the Youth Residential Placement Task Force recommendations, Philadelphia providers and City agencies continued to work toward facilitating the best possible outcomes for youth in placement.

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## BUILDING ON PREVIOUS WORK, IN 2022:

- Systems leaders **continued their commitment to building supports in the community** to reach youth before any system interaction occurs.
- Residential **placement numbers continued to decline** as a result of system decisions, programs, and practices.
- **Information sharing and collaborative projects between departments increased**, building resources equipped to serve youth across systems.
- **Standards for practice and service were raised and met**, as leaders kept their commitment to building **the highest level of quality services and supports for Philadelphia youth**.

Residential placements, commonly known as “congregate care” in the child welfare and juvenile justice fields, include group homes, psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs), non-PRTF institutions, state-run facilities for youth who are delinquent only, and emergency shelters for youth who are dependent only. Some residential facilities also offer on-grounds educational services. Residential placement providers operate 365 days a year and are expected to house youth in a safe, 24-hour supervised environment. They are also expected to support behavioral health needs and overall youth well-being, including educational progress. Throughout the report, the term “placement” refers to a residential placement as defined above.

# Our Goals

To ensure that...



## SYSTEM Improvements

RECOMMENDATIONS 1, 2, 3, 4

- There is improved coordination, communication, and collaboration leading to reductions and improvements in all residential placements.

and that youth...



## REDUCE the Use

RECOMMENDATIONS 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

- Enter placement in fewer numbers due to successful community-based alternatives.



## Improve QUALITY

RECOMMENDATIONS 10, 11, 12, 13

- Stay in placements close to home, in smaller settings, whenever possible.
- Benefit from quality care and full family support during and after placement.



## Improve SAFETY

RECOMMENDATIONS 14, 15, 16

- Have their personal safety protected while in placement.



## Improve EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATIONS 17, 18, 19

- Receive appropriate education services while in placement.

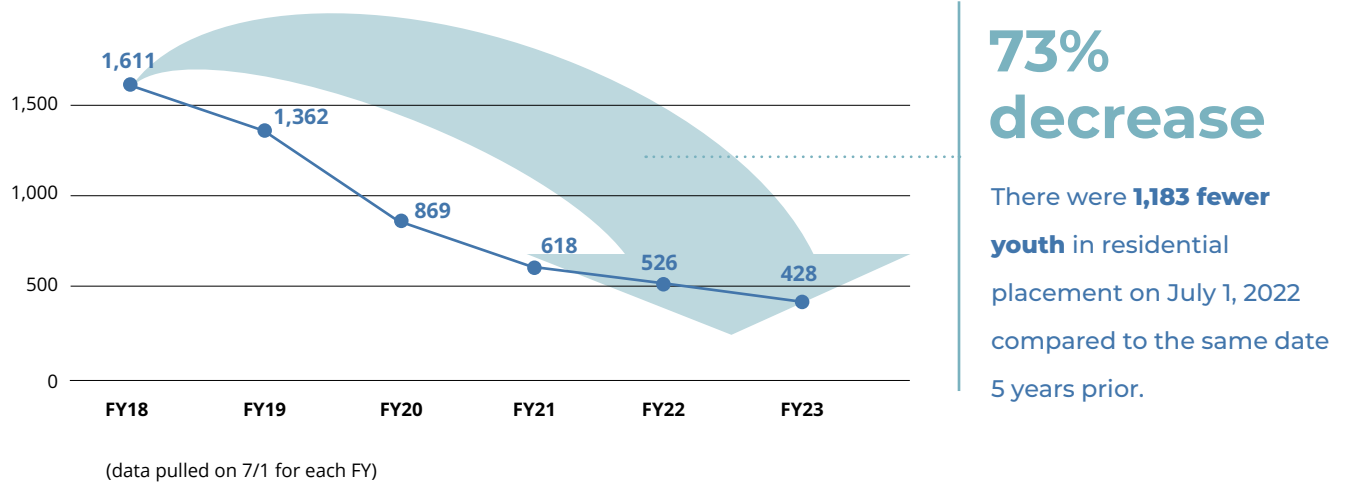
## State of the Systems<sup>2</sup>

While youth in placement are generally in one of three types of placement settings (dependent, delinquent, or psychiatric residential treatment)<sup>3</sup>, it is also important to view the system as a whole to see the full story of all Philadelphia’s youth who are in residential placement. System-wide information is presented as well as a closer look at each system.

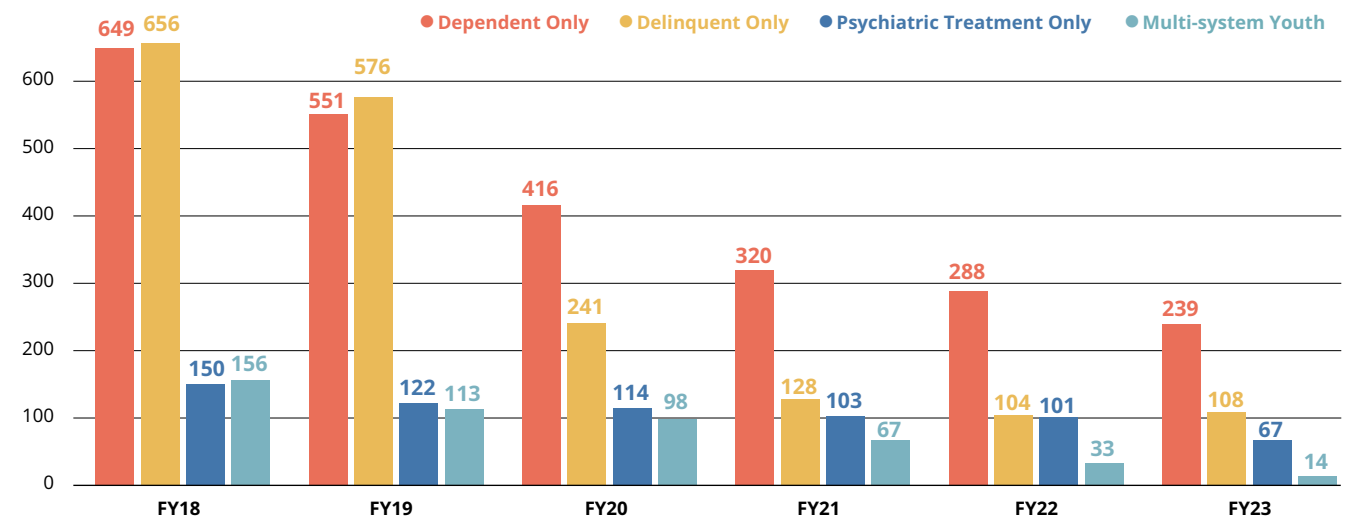
### HOW MANY TOTAL YOUTH ARE IN CARE ON A GIVEN DAY?

In recent years, the number of youth in residential placements overall as well as each type of residential placement has significantly declined.

#### HOW MANY TOTAL YOUTH ARE IN CARE ON A GIVEN DAY?



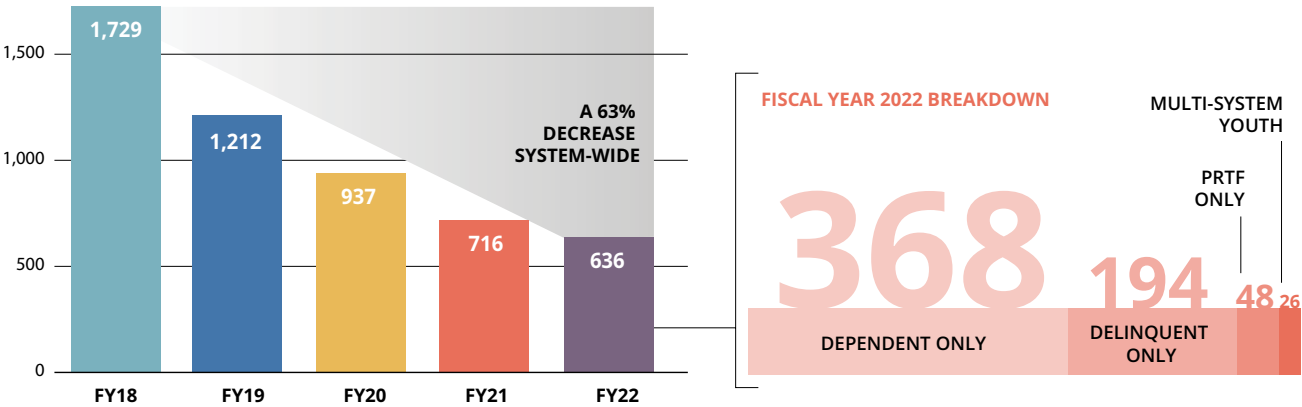
#### HOW MANY YOUTH ARE IN CARE ON A GIVEN DAY (BY PLACEMENT TYPE)?



## HOW MANY YOUTH ENTERED RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT IN A GIVEN YEAR?

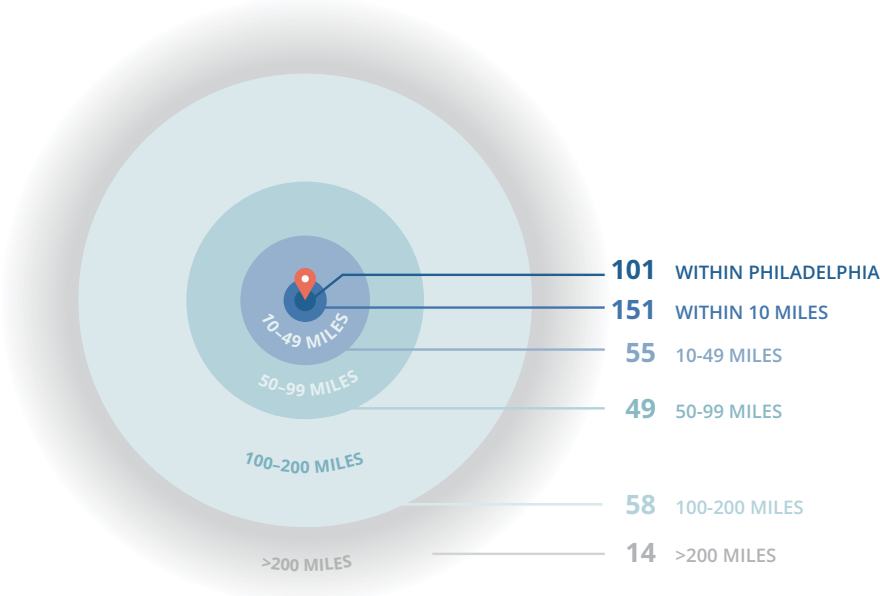
Over the last four years, both the system as a whole and each type of placement have experienced sharp declines in placement rates.

### HOW MANY YOUTH ENTERED A RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT AT SOME POINT DURING EACH FISCAL YEAR?



## HOW FAR FROM HOME ARE PLACEMENTS?

### YOUTH PLACED BY DISTANCE FROM HOME (AS OF 7/1/21)



**Overall, Philadelphia youth are staying closer to home.** Over half (58%) of Philadelphia youth are placed within Philadelphia or 10 miles of it compared to 33% four years ago. Youth living greater than 200 miles away decreased from 19% in FY18 to only 3% in FY22.

This data represents all residential placement settings. Some placement types heavily influence the data. For example, the closest state secure facility is approximately one hundred miles from Philadelphia.

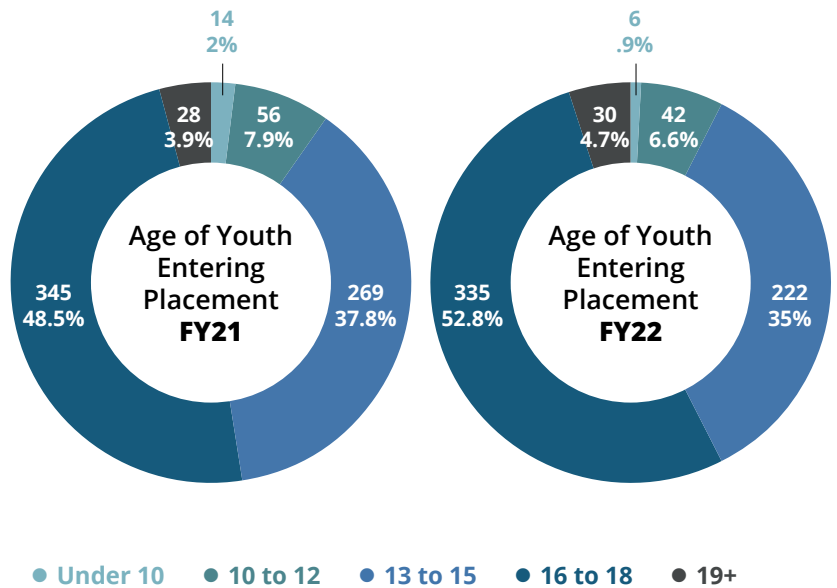
WHAT ARE THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF YOUTH IN PLACEMENT?

AGE

**Age of youth served in each system continues to be relatively stable.** Two small changes occurred from FY21 to FY22: the median age of youth in Residential treatment facilities changed from 13 to 14, and the median age of multi-system youth changed from 15 to 14.

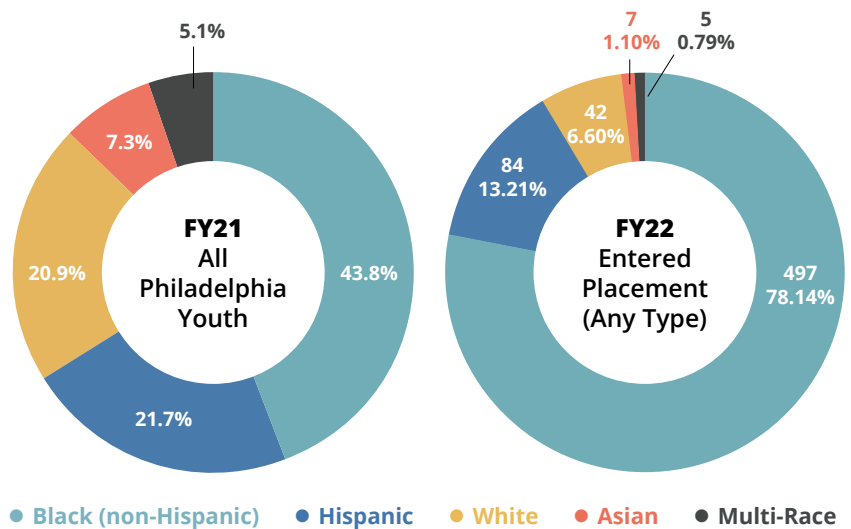
MEDIAN AGE

- Youth in dependent facility (only) in FY21: **15**
- Youth in a delinquent facility (only) in FY22: **17**
- Youth in psychiatric treatment facility (only) in FY22: **14**
- Youth involved in more than one system in FY21: **14**



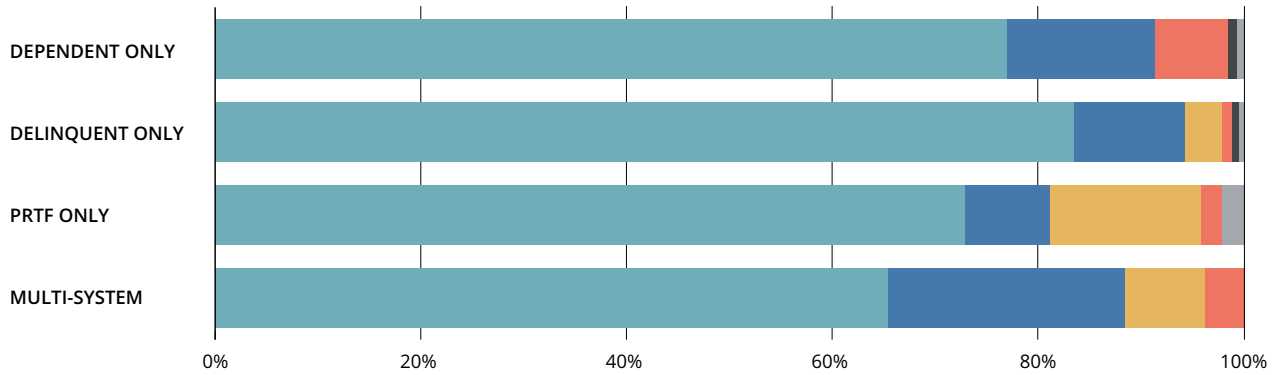
RACE/ETHNICITY

**Even though the number of youth in the system has decreased, youth of color remain disproportionately represented in residential placements.** 91% of youth in residential placement are Black (non-Hispanic) or Hispanic. In other terms, Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic youth are 5.7 times more likely than their peers to enter residential placement. See updates on recommendation #4 for work the City is doing to address this problem.



RACE/ETHNICITY

% RACE/ETHNICITY BY SYSTEM (FY22)



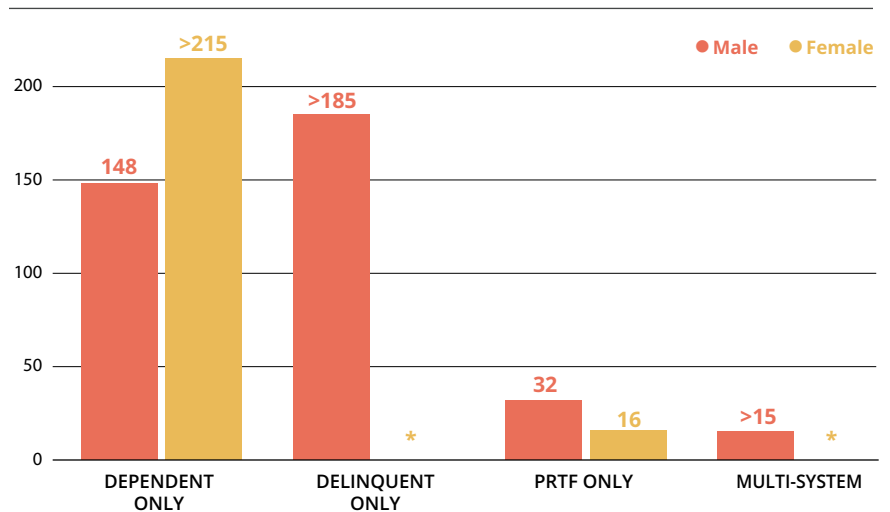
	DEPENDENT ONLY	DELINQUENT ONLY	PRTF ONLY	MULTI-SYSTEM
● Black	283	162	35	17
● Hispanic	53	21	*	*
● White	26	*	*	*
● Asian	*	*	*	*
● Multi-Race	*	*	*	0
● Unknown	0	*	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>26</b>

Any value represented by a "\*" is equal to or less than 10.

GENDER

**More boys enter residential placement than girls (in FY22, 387 compared to 248).** In FY22, girls outnumbered boys in dependency placements, boys vastly outnumbered girls in delinquency placements, and boys outnumbered girls in both PRTF and multi-system placements.

GENDER IN PLACEMENT (FY22)



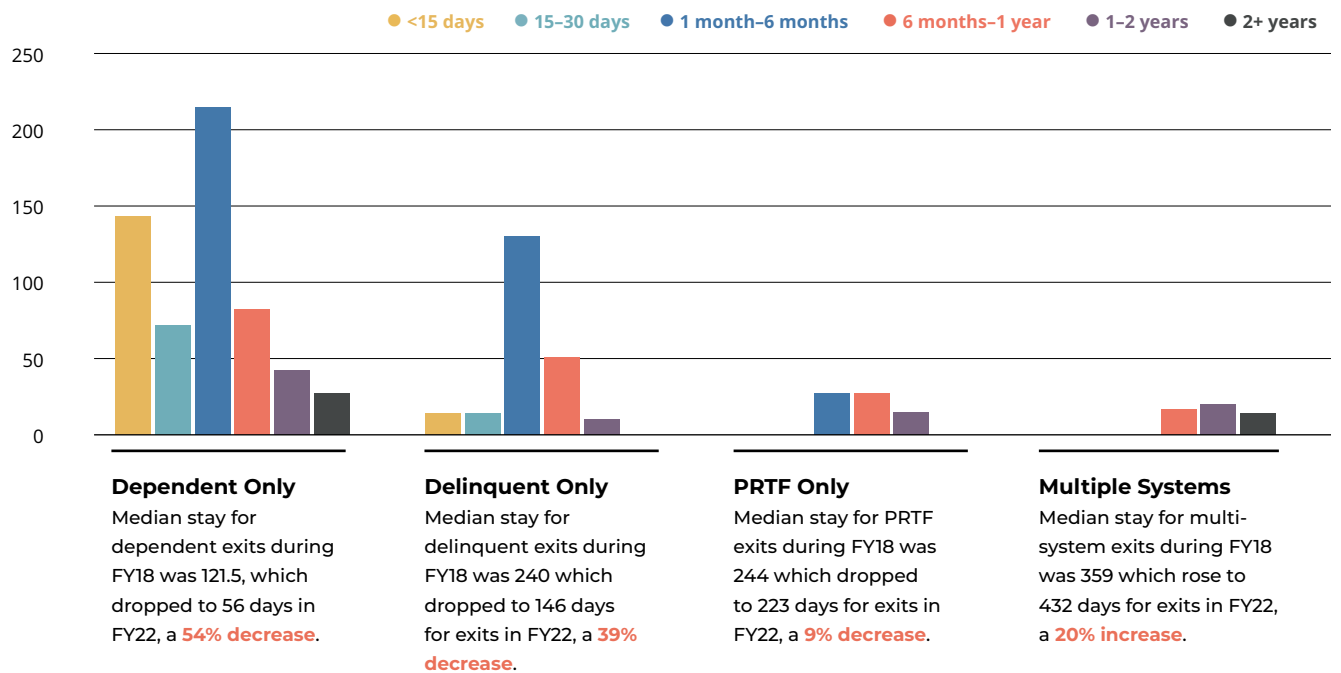
Any value represented by a "\*" is equal to or less than 10.



## FOR HOW LONG DO YOUTH STAY IN PLACEMENT?

Across single-type placements, length of stay was significantly shorter in FY22 than FY18, but increased by 20% for multi-system youth. Shorter stays may reduce trauma for youth and indicate improved quality of care, and longer stays may reflect increased complexity/acuity as overall placements decline.

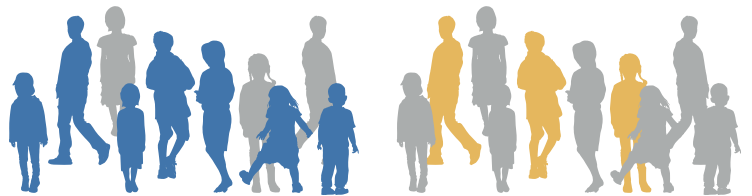
### LENGTH OF STAY IN RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS BY SYSTEM (FY22)



Note: Length of stay is based just on the episode(s) that ended during that fiscal year. Each episode is counted separately and so an individual can have more than one exit in a FY. An episode length does not include prior stays/episodes or cumulative days in placement over the individual's life. For youth that had 2 service periods with a gap of less than 15 days (i.e. all one "episode") we included the non-service gap days in this version of length of stay calculation.

## HOW MANY YOUTH RECEIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE IN PLACEMENT?




Many youth who are in dependent or delinquent placements receive behavioral health services from Community Behavioral Health providers during the year they enter residential placement. In FY22, 69.7% of youth in dependent placements and 30.7% of youth in delinquent placements received such services.








**In FY22, nearly 7 out of 10 dependent youth and about 3 out of 10 delinquent youth received behavioral health services.**

# 2022 Highlighted Accomplishments

RECOMMENDATION

<p>3</p> 		<p><b>RECOMMENDATION #3</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS</b></span></p> <p><b>Developed new data warehouse combining juvenile probation and DHS data:</b> The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2021 between DHS and FJD has enabled the Performance Management &amp; Technology Team to build a more holistic picture of juvenile justice and child welfare services provided to the youth via the court, probation, and DHS. PMT and FJD leadership and staff meet regularly for continued collaboration on technical components of the data transfers, and ongoing joint projects.</p>
<p>4</p> 		<p><b>RECOMMENDATION #4</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS</b></span></p> <p><b>Begun work using \$3.75 million five-year federal grant to decrease number of disproportionately represented families of color from entering child welfare system to meet basic needs:</b> The <b>five-year federal grant from the Administration of Children and Families and the Children’s Bureau</b> is intended to support families through primary prevention strategies to ultimately reduce ethno-racial disproportionality in formal safety services. In 2022, DHS conducted various planning activities and created a thorough implementation and evaluation plan and has begun implementation. The City’s strategy has three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Modifying and supplementing the state-mandated reporter training</b> to encourage a culture of support rather than surveillance.</li> <li>• <b>Streamlining connections to services, benefits and concrete goods for families diverted from formal DHS involvement</b> and living in priority areas of the City with the most reports to DHS.</li> <li>• <b>Expanding the City Health Department’s existing Philly Families CAN (PF CAN) referral line.</b> PF CAN was originally developed to connect families with children up to age 3 with voluntary home visiting services based on their eligibility and interests.</li> </ul>
<p>5</p> 		<p><b>RECOMMENDATION #5</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>REDUCE THE USE</b></span></p> <p><b>Opened additional Institute for the Development of African American Youth (IDAAY) location site:</b> This new site expands the IDAAY <i>Don’t Fall down in the Hood</i> programming to include non-court involved youth as a prevention style program. This program is designed to target youth who have been impacted by trauma, and serves as a intervention for gun violence mitigation. Daily on-site programming occurs Tuesday-Thursday from 4:00pm-7:00pm and includes nightly check ins by phone.</p>

RECOMMENDATION

<p>7</p> 		<p><b>RECOMMENDATION #7</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>REDUCE THE USE</b></span></p> <p><b>Launch of Crisis Access Link Model (CALM) at the intersection of child welfare and behavioral health:</b> DHS, MDO, and CBH are partnering to launch CALM, a mobile crisis service which meets with the youth and resource parent when a youth enters a new child welfare placement. This program will increase upstream options for intervention in addition to the full continuum of community-based treatments available for children and adolescents.</p>
<p>8</p> 		<p><b>RECOMMENDATION #8</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>REDUCE THE USE</b></span></p> <p><b>Train providers of regionalized Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) in Evidence-Based Treatments:</b> By the end of the 22/23 academic year, the following number of providers will have received training and consultation in each evidence-based treatment: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: 18 providers, Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools/ BounceBack: 15, The Bridge: 14</p>
<p>10</p> 		<p><b>RECOMMENDATION #10</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>IMPROVE QUALITY</b></span></p> <p><b>CBH awarded the right to negotiate to Laila Way and Bancroft for small PRTFs within Philadelphia County.</b> These programs would serve youth diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder or intellectual disabilities. CBH continues to support these providers towards implementation of these programs.</p>
<p>12</p> 		<p><b>RECOMMENDATION #12</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>IMPROVE QUALITY</b></span></p> <p><b>Implemented Multidisciplinary Planning Meetings:</b> Multidisciplinary planning meetings are implemented by DHS and JJS. They include strategic collaboration with internal and external stakeholders to enhance the service continuum for youth and families for the purposes of successful reintegration into their communities of origin and reduction in recidivism. Stakeholders include but are not limited to, Youth, Parents/Caregivers-Family, Juvenile Probation, Defenders Association, District Attorney Office, School District of Philadelphia, Representative from Court &amp; Community, Mayor’s Office of Violence Prevention, CBH, Hall Mercer, DHS/CUA Assigned Social Work Team and the PJJSC Social Services: Social Service Manager</p>
<p>15</p> 		<p><b>RECOMMENDATION #15</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>IMPROVE SAFETY</b></span></p> <p><b>Established the Office of the Youth Ombudsperson (OYO) within the Office of the Inspector General (OIG):</b> Mayor Kenney signed Executive Order 5-22 to establish the OYO, which will provide oversight with respect to the Residential Treatment Center system and how it interacts with family court, DHS, and behavioral health services. The OYO will also act as a liaison between youth and families who interact with RTFs, to hear their complaints and concerns, and find solutions to those that are raised. The Youth Ombudsperson, Tracie Johnson, has begun her work and the OYO team continues to be built out.</p>

# Recommendation Progress



## SYSTEM Improvements

RECOMMENDATION	TIMELINE FROM 2019 REPORT	STATUS <sup>4</sup>
1 Develop a cross-system plan to further reduce residential placement and increase community-based alternatives.	Short, Dec. '20	Completed
2 Issue a public Annual Progress Report of the system with provider profiles for transparency.	Short-Medium, Dec. '20/Dec. '21	Completed
3 Expand the use of integrated data to increase coordination and communication among all services received by a youth, including education.	Medium, Dec. '21	In progress—Implementation
4 Develop and make public strategies to eliminate racial, gender, and LGBTQ-GNC overrepresentation in placements.	Long, Dec. '23	In progress—planning

### 2022 PROGRESS:

#### RECOMMENDATION #3

**Completed research to identify trends in juvenile arrest as they relate to neighborhood resources in Philadelphia:** DHS' office of Performance Management and Technology (PMT) produced a report which presents geospatial patterns of Philadelphia youth arrests and rates of reporting to DHS' Hotline. Results show clusters of neighborhoods with both higher rates of youth arrests and DHS reports in North, Lower Northeast, West, and Southwest Philadelphia neighborhoods. On average these neighborhoods experience greater burdens such as poverty, vacant land, and housing insecurity. Additionally, greater proportions of non-Hispanic Black residents live in underserved neighborhoods where the effects of systemic racism and historic discrimination such as redlining are still evident today in patterns of residential segregation. These findings suggest a positive relationship between structural risk factors and ethno-racial disproportionality in youth arrests and DHS reporting. Although the core analysis in the study is complete, additional revisions to our presentation are in progress to add context and ensure clarity before the results are disseminated more widely. We anticipate completing this step by the end of calendar year 2023.

#### RECOMMENDATION #4

**Evolving internal practices to become an anti-racist organization:** To promote equity-centered decision-making, DHS continues to partner with the University of Pennsylvania, the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), and Casey Family Programs, which provide technical assistance related to identified strategies, along with coaching and learning sessions. In collaboration with our partners, DHS and CUA staff have been interviewed as well as families and youth. CSSP provided an anti-racist training to DHS Executive Leadership and has reviewed a number of DHS policies with an anti-racism lens. A steering committee is currently strategizing implementation of resulting recommendations from CSSP. Additionally, per an executive order from Mayor Kenney, Commissioner Ali appointed a diverse group of staff from all levels and divisions who are currently participating in a City Department Cohort in anti-racist work, which will result in additional recommendations. We are engaging in this work to ensure that DHS works comprehensively to support more equitable outcomes for youth of color.

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**FUTURE WORK:****RECOMMENDATION #3****Use integrated data to analyze structural-level information impacting youth in the juvenile justice system:**

The JDAI Coordinator and PMT are collaborating to create monthly management reports on detention and ATD utilization. These reports are made possible by the data warehouse formed under the MOU. The monthly reports will be available to internal DHS leadership, and the JDAI Board (including leaders from Juvenile Probation, FJD, MDO, DBHIDS, CBH, DAO, Defender's Association, PPD). They will inform ongoing progress against JDAI priorities as identified by the Board and to highlight potential areas for system or policy improvement that must be addressed collaboratively by system partners.

**RECOMMENDATION #4****Continue implementation of Administration of Children and Families and Children's Bureau grant strategies:**

DHS will launch the supplemental mandated reporter training and the expansion of Philly Families CAN during the fall and winter of 2023.



## REDUCE the Use

RECOMMENDATION	TIMELINE FROM 2019 REPORT	STATUS
<b>5</b> Expand/prioritize the use of prevention and diversion services for youth and their families in the juvenile justice system.	Long, Dec. '23	In progress—implementation
<b>6</b> Monitor, minimize, and make public the number of youth sent to placement for nonviolent offenses or technical probation violations.	Short-Medium, Dec. '20/Dec. '21	In progress—planning
<b>7</b> Develop additional child welfare prevention programming and local community- and family-based alternatives to dependent residential placement.	Medium-Long, Dec. '21/Dec. '23	In progress—implementation
<b>8</b> Provide preventive supports at school for all youth and ensure the needs of youth at risk are addressed.	Medium, Dec. '21	In progress—implementation
<b>9</b> Ensure that youth's disabilities and/or special education needs are identified and information about them is made available to system decision makers.	Short, Dec. '20	In progress—implementation

### 2022 PROGRESS:

#### RECOMMENDATION #7

**Expanded to the operation of four Community Evening Resource Centers (CERCS):** Two new Community Evening Resource Centers (CERCS) were established in October 2022. The CERCS have expanded their coverage to the Central and Northwest Police districts. Institute for Development of African American Youth IDAAY (Central) and Juvenile Justice Center (Northwest) are the two new CERC providers in those respective police districts. In 2022, the four current CERCS serviced a combined total of 1,238 youth. These numbers will grow larger with the upcoming addition of two CERCS.

### FUTURE WORK:

#### RECOMMENDATION #5

**Network with local schools and community programs:** IDAAY will provide incentives for youth attendance and participation in the program, communicating through schools and other local programs. IDAAY will also implement a social media campaign to spread the information across our system to partners.

**RECOMMENDATION #6****Issue an RFP to solicit new providers to increase capacity for detention and treatment placements:** A

preproposal RFP meeting for the multitiered detention and treatment program occurred in March, 2023. Treatment programs include Secure and Mid-Level Residential Setting Facilities for youth which are the least restrictive types of placements that is consistent with the protection of the public and best suited for youths' treatment, supervision, and rehabilitation. All referrals to Secure and Mid-Level Care will reflect youth with complex needs that cannot be managed in less therapeutic environments.

**RECOMMENDATION #7**

**CERCs will expand in 2023:** The RFP process has been completed for the establishment of two additional Community Evening Resource Centers. Two providers have been chosen. One provider is expected to be in operation by July 2023, and second by August 2023. The new CERCS are Unique Dreams in the Northeast police division, and Norris Square in the East police division. The Centers will place heavier emphasis on conflict resolution in 2023.

**Continued evaluation and rollout of CALM:** CALM is now operating in CUA 10. As part of the expansion plan, the CALM project partners will continue to evaluate service utilization and service delivery. The program will expand to all 10 CUAs, and the team will develop a plan to expand to congregate care.



## Improve QUALITY

RECOMMENDATION	TIMELINE FROM 2019 REPORT	STATUS
<b>10</b> Develop new small residential programs in Philadelphia to keep youth close to home.	Medium-Long, Dec. '21/Dec. '23	In progress—planning
<b>11</b> Ensure youth and families receive clear information on rights, grievance procedures, and key contact information.	Short, Dec. '20	Completed
<b>12</b> Make engagement with family a central component of program delivery.	Short, Dec. '20	In progress—implementation
<b>13</b> Expand paid peer advisor/credible messenger positions for youth and adults.	Short-Medium, Dec. '20/Dec. '21	In progress—planning

### 2022 PROGRESS:

#### RECOMMENDATION #10

**CBH opened its provider network.** Opening its provider network for PRTF means that CBH decreased barriers to entry into these programs. Previously, PRTFs could only be opened if CBH issued a competitive RFP; now providers can apply at any time to contract for PRTF with CBH.

#### RECOMMENDATION #12

**Secured an additional \$300,000 in funding from City Council to assist with relocation services for youth and their immediate family members who are fearful of returning to their homes of origin due to gun violence:**

This funding was secured by DHS/JJS and it is accessed through a partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Violence Prevention to serve families who have had gun violence perpetrated against them or who experience threats of gun violence made to intimidate witnesses.

**Partnered with Uplift Center for Grieving Children:** PJJSC social services with Uplift Center for Grieving children now provide 4 grief groups per month for youth who have experienced significant loss in their lives.

**PJJSC Social workers participate in face-to-face parental visits.** This practice was implemented to engage parents and answer questions that parents may have. Social workers also provided youth with the opportunity to maintain regular connections to parents, guardians, and other loved ones via weekly telephone contact.

**PJJSC hosted its first of many Parenting Cafés.** Parent Cafés are judgment-free spaces that allow parents to join other parents to talk, support, and learn from each other during guided open discussions. Community Umbrella Agencies (CUAs) host Parent Cafés in 10 different neighborhoods, and they are open to all parents and adults.



**RECOMMENDATION #12/16**

**Trained residential providers on additional family engagement strategies:** In collaboration with national experts Building Bridges Initiative (BBI), CBH provided training webinars on Trauma Sensitive Practice and Preventing Coercion, Family Drive Caren, and Work Force Development. This elevated opportunities for family-driven care, a required element in CBH's performance standards.

**RECOMMENDATION #13**

**Created a permanent full-time employment opportunity for individuals with lived experience in the child welfare system:** To support the full-integration of Philadelphia DHS Bio-Parent and Youth voice into our child welfare system, DHS has created positions that prioritize and elevate the voices of older youth & biological parents with lived experience in the Philadelphia child welfare and/or juvenile justice system. In this position, specific attention will be given to enhancing the service delivery and continuum of care for children and families. DHS is currently in the hiring process for 2 staff with lived experience and a Social Work Supervisor to oversee the unit.

**FUTURE WORK:****RECOMMENDATION #12**

**PJJSC will host a six-week parenting support group facilitated by the Parent Action Network (PAN) on 3/2/2023.** PJJSC will host a six-week parenting support group in partnership and co-facilitated with PAN. DHS is currently seeking feedback from parents to customize PAN groups. These groups provide psychoeducational support; promote protective capacity building; and enhanced social supports for parents and guardians of youth within the juvenile justice system.



## Improve SAFETY

RECOMMENDATION	TIMELINE FROM 2019 REPORT	STATUS
<b>14</b> Require contracted providers to improve the quality of frontline residential program staff through wages, benefits, and training improvements.	Medium-Long, Dec. '21/Dec. '23	In progress—implementation
<b>15</b> Establish an independent Youth Services Ombudsperson office to receive and investigate concerns from youth and families about safety or services.	Medium, Dec. '21	In progress—implementation
<b>16</b> Require providers to adopt evidence-based models to reduce or eliminate manual restraints and install video cameras.	Medium-Long, Dec. '21/Dec. '23	In progress—implementation

### 2022 PROGRESS:

#### RECOMMENDATION #14

**Survey youth about their identities being respected during the youth interviews as a part of the Congregate Care evaluation process.** Youth are being surveyed about their identities being respected as a part of the practice of the Congregate Care evaluation process that has already been in place. The Congregate Care evaluation process also includes use of the tool which addresses identity.

#### RECOMMENDATION #16

**In-network providers have installed video cameras:** Within the CBH network, 7 of the 8 providers have installed cameras. Warwick house, the remaining provider without cameras, reported as of February 2023, they have had someone on site to complete an estimate for installation of cameras.

**Review adherence to the camera installation requirement:** DHS now collects data on restraint numbers during congregate care provider evaluations. DHS has also previously collected information on camera installation by congregate care providers. DHS will continue to explore additional review of adherence to the camera installation requirement.

**FUTURE WORK:****RECOMMENDATION #14****Revise policies regarding the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE) initiative:**

DHS is currently finalizing an RFP to hire a qualified SOGIE consultant or consulting team to provide training, technical assistance, and co-design solutions with LGBTQ+ and intersectional communities. This will enhance affirmative practices within the child welfare system by increasing the skills, knowledge, and qualifications of current child welfare agency staff, child welfare and juvenile justice providers, and other community-based support service providers regarding engagement with youth and families around topics related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression (SOGIE). These changes will also support the collection of SOGIE-related client data, and the development of SOGIE related services, programming, and supports to ensure the safety, stability, and permanence of youth involved in the child welfare system.

**RECOMMENDATION #14/16****Update treatment policies regarding restraint**

**use:** Changes to the PA Code 3800 regulations are anticipated to be released by the State in 2022. These regulations govern residential facilities and may contain changes to the standards for staffing requirements, restraint use and trauma-informed care among other safety and quality improvement measures.



## Improve EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATION	TIMELINE FROM 2019 REPORT	STATUS
<b>17</b> Ensure youth have access to the full range of educational opportunities available to other students in public schools, as well as school stability or immediate enrollment when placed in a residential setting.	Medium, Dec. '21	In progress—implementation
<b>18</b> Establish mechanisms for local monitoring and oversight of education facilities, including on-grounds schools.	Medium-Long, Dec. '21/Dec. '23	In progress—planning
<b>19</b> Improve timely information sharing and collaboration to prevent harm to educational progress and to support youth's educational transitions.	Short-Medium, Dec. '20/Dec. '21	In progress—implementation

### 2022 PROGRESS:

#### RECOMMENDATION #19

**Developed an education stability course for DHS staff and partners:** Education stability course was finalized in collaboration with DHSU. The course is now uploaded in the learning management system where all DHS, CUA, and provider agencies staff are able to complete it.

**Implement Pennsylvania Senate Bill #324 for supporting school stability for youth in the child welfare system:**

The school district has begun planning to operationalize Act 1. The district has also begun informational trainings on Act 158 and Act 1 with partners.

**Student Transition Center expansion of services to include the Bridge program for up to 10 days:** The Bridge program will allow students transitioning back into the School District to have immediate access to asynchronous instruction and course work supported by certified teachers. Students will be able to re-engage in real-time while completing in process credits and/or awaiting the start of a new term.

### FUTURE WORK:

#### RECOMMENDATION #17

**Collect information on what schools' dependent youth attend while at a residential location and reasons why:**

Philadelphia DHS will survey their residential providers to increase their awareness of educational access and fit for youth. The survey will ask providers to report on what schools their youth attend, and if it is an on-grounds school, to provide the reasons why. This report will be provided to DHS leadership on a biannual basis beginning in February 2022 and can also inform<sup>5</sup> the on-grounds school evaluation SDP will be hiring a contractor to complete.

# Endnotes

1. This 2022 annual report generally covers work performed from January 2022 - December 2022, as well as plans for future work. Updates are not inclusive of all ongoing work. The 2019, 2020, and 2021 reports can be found here: <https://www.phila.gov/departments/health-and-human-services/youth-residential-placement-task-force>.
2. Source: The City of Philadelphia’s Integrated Data System, managed by the Office of Integrated Data for Evidence and Action in the Managing Director’s Office. IDEA refreshed data for all years throughout this report so numbers may differ slightly from those in the 2021 report as data systems have been updated.
3. There is also a category for “multi-system youth.” This category accounts for any youth who received residential services from more than one system, either at the same time or at different times during the year. For example, a child could be in the dependent system but receive services from a Community Behavioral Health psychiatric treatment facility. Alternatively, a youth may have had multiple residential stays in the year, for example both dependent and delinquent experiences and are thus captured in the “multi-system” youth category.
4. Key to status descriptors:
  - Completed: Agencies have completed the tasks identified in the 2019 report for the given recommendation.
  - In progress—implementation: Agencies have begun implementation of some or all of the tasks in the 2019 report for the given recommendation. Progress will continue to be monitored.
  - In progress—planning: Agencies are investigating and planning how best to implement the tasks identified in the 2019 report for the given recommendation.
5. Pursuant to Pennsylvania law, youth are to attend on-grounds schools only under certain circumstances (e.g., a court order or an IEP team decision), but Pennsylvania does not maintain individual-level data detailing those circumstances.



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