

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute  
**Examining Racial and Ethnic  
Disparities in the Juvenile  
Justice System in Indiana:**  
Survey Analysis



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# Background

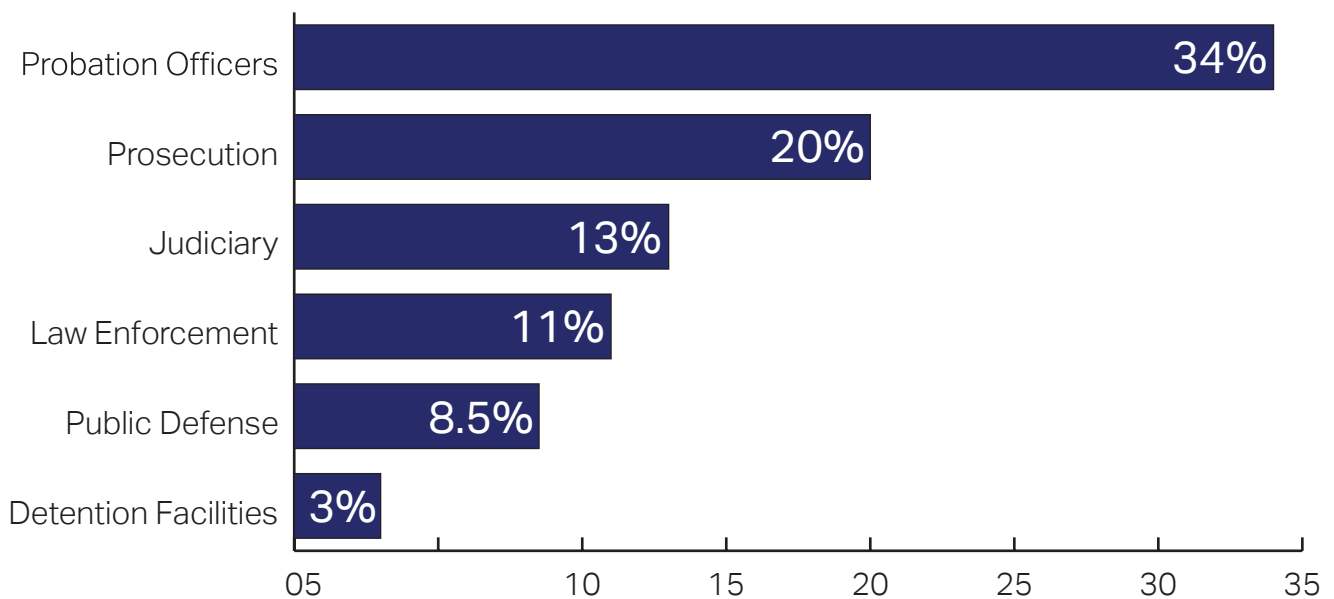
In September 2022, the ICJI conducted a statewide juvenile justice survey to evaluate local juvenile justice systems in terms of equity and to identify risk factors that influence youth involvement in the justice system. The primary focus of the survey is to better understand juvenile arrest and referral data collected at the local level that is used to analyze racial and ethnic disparities within the juvenile justice system. The results of this study will allow counties to better understand racial and ethnic disparities data and identify methodologies for understanding these data more comprehensively.

The survey link was emailed, via Qualtrics, to multiple stakeholders in all 92 counties. The stakeholders included: probation officers, law enforcement officers, public defenders, prosecutors, judges, and jail/detention facilities staff. The goal of the survey was to seek a broad perspective from individuals engaged in youth-centered work throughout the state, as well as gaining a better understanding of RED data. The majority of the questions asked of stakeholders concerned their experiences and perceptions of racial and ethnic disparities in their individual counties.

# Overview

The ICJI sent a total of 980 emails. Qualtrics recorded a total of 172 responses, however, after removing the responses that did not answer beyond question 3; 124 responses were recorded. The first three questions recorded demographics. Probation departments had the highest response rate at 34%. However, law enforcement recorded the most responses with 45 individuals completing the survey. Various responses were received from 73 different counties, however, multiple agencies in the same counties responded 2 or more times.

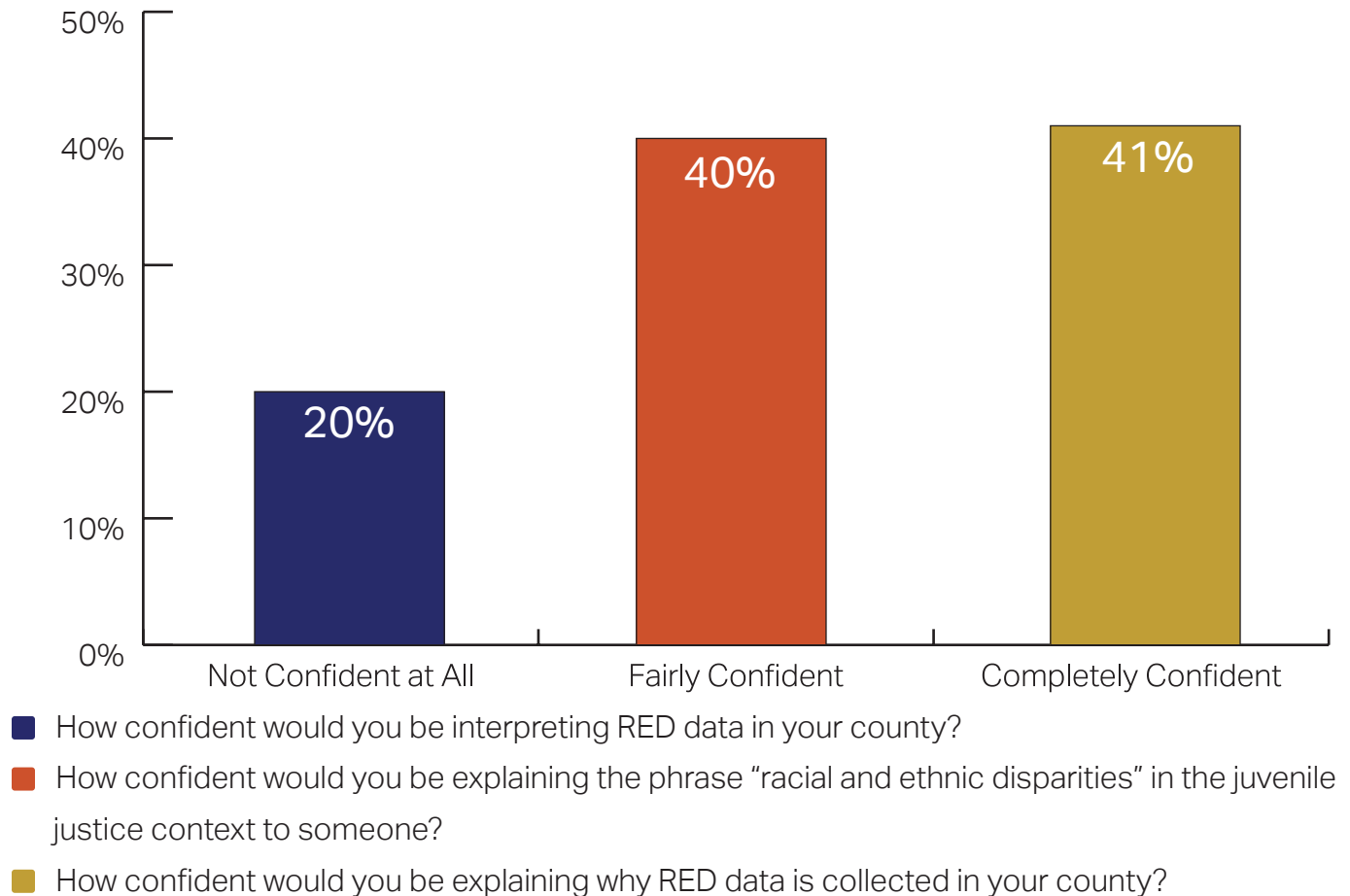
**Figure 1. Stakeholder’s Response Rate**



## Understanding, Explaining, and Interpreting RED Data

The survey respondents were asked about their level of confidence with understanding, explaining, and interpreting RED data. They were asked to rate their level of confidence from completely confident, fairly confident, somewhat confident, slightly confident, and not confident at all. The results presented in Figure 2 are the top three responses for each question asked. Forty-one percent of stakeholders report they are “completely confident” explaining why RED data is collected in their county. Forty percent report they are “fairly confident” explaining the phrase “racial and ethnic disparities” in the juvenile justice context to someone. Approximately 20% report they are “not confident at all” interpreting RED data.

**Figure 2. Understanding, Explaining, Interpreting RED Data**



## Frequent Type of Offenses

Stakeholders were asked, “based on your experience, what is the most frequent type of offense that juveniles are detained for in your county?” They were asked to rank each offense from the most frequent type (1) of offense to the least frequent type (5) of offense. Thirty-four percent of agencies report “violent” offenses are the most frequent type of offense that juveniles are detained for, followed by drug offenses, non-violent offenses and status offenses. Status offenses are offenses that are only considered illegal because of the offender’s age, such as truancy or curfew violations.

**Table 1. Frequent Type of Offenses**

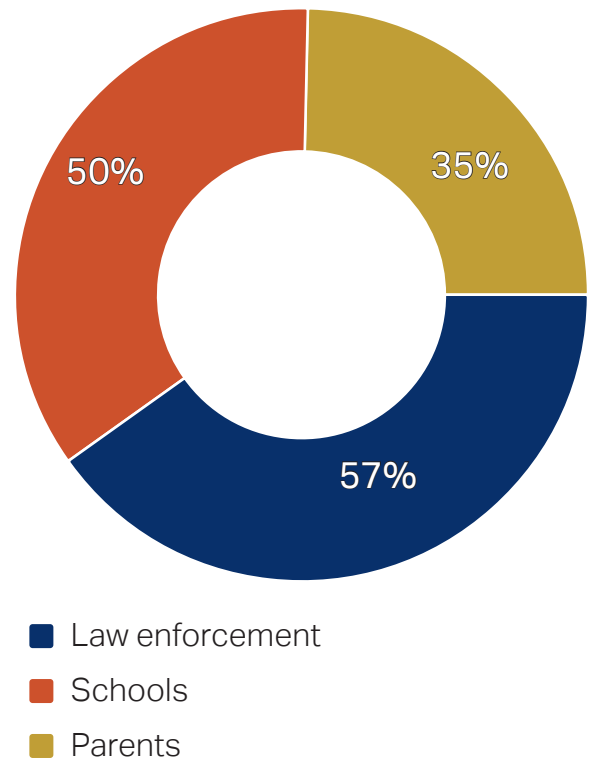
Type of Offense	1- Most Frequent	2	3	4	5 - Less frequent
Violent	34.3%	13%	21%	29.3%	2.5%
Status	22.2%	19%	18.8%	31%	9%
Non-violent	25.3%	25.8%	34.2%	13%	1%
Drug	15.8%	41.5%	25%	16.2%	1.3%
Other	1.3%	1%	1%	10.5%	86.2%

## Frequent Source of Referrals

Stakeholders were asked, “based on your experience, what is the most frequent source of referrals for youth into the juvenile justice system?” They were given nine options and asked to rank them from most frequent (1) to least frequent (9). The options consisted of the following: schools, parents, law enforcement, citizens, Department of Children Services, prosecutor, community service providers, business owners/ retail stores, and other. The responses varied between agencies, overall, the top 3 responses were law enforcement (57%), schools (50%) and parents (35%).

The following table estimates the number of youths detained in detention centers or facilities. The following question was only asked to stakeholders in the probation officers and law enforcement capacity. It is important to note the numbers are a total between all responses. The number may not reflect accuracy as the numbers fluctuate over time and not all participants answered this question. Marion county is the leading county for holding juveniles charged with a violent offense, non-violent offense, and a drug offense. At the time the survey was completed, Marion County was holding 40 juveniles for a violent offense, 10 for a non-violent offense and 10 for a drug offense. St. Joseph county held the second highest number of juveniles for a violent offense at 16 juveniles. The remaining numbers were spread around in various other counties. Bartholomew housed the two reported status offenders. St. Joseph housed all four reported juveniles listed under the “Other” category.

**Figure 3. Frequent Source of Referrals- Overall**



**Table 2. Approximate Number of Youths Detained in Detention Center/Facility.**

County	Violent	Status	Non-Violent (excluding drug offenses)	Drug	Other
Marion	40	0	10	10	0
St. Joseph	16	0	0	0	4
Henry	4	0	1	0	0
Porter	3	0	3	2	0
Bartholomew	2	2	0	0	0
Clay	1	0	0	0	0
Grant	1	0	1	0	0
Sullivan	1	0	0	0	0
Martin	0	0	1	1	0
Floyd	0	0	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>

\*Reported by probation officers and law enforcement

Participants were asked if the number of youths held in detention centers/facilities changed over the past few years. Forty-one percent reported the number of youths detained has increased, whereas 39% report the number has decreased. An additional 20% report there has been no change. The remaining participants report "don't know" when asked if the number of youths detained has changed. Frequency of Referrals/ Arrests for White Youths and Other Racial and Ethnic Groups

## Frequency of Referrals/Arrests for White Youths and Other Racial and Ethnic Groups

Participants were asked, "based on your experience are White youths arrested/referred more or less frequently than other racial/ethnic groups?" Fifty percent report White youth are arrested more frequently. Fifty- four percent report White youth are also referred more frequently than other racial and ethnic groups. Between 28-30% of agencies report White youth are arrested or referred at the same rate as other racial and ethnic groups.

**Table 3. Frequency of Referrals for White and Other Racial/Ethnic Youths**

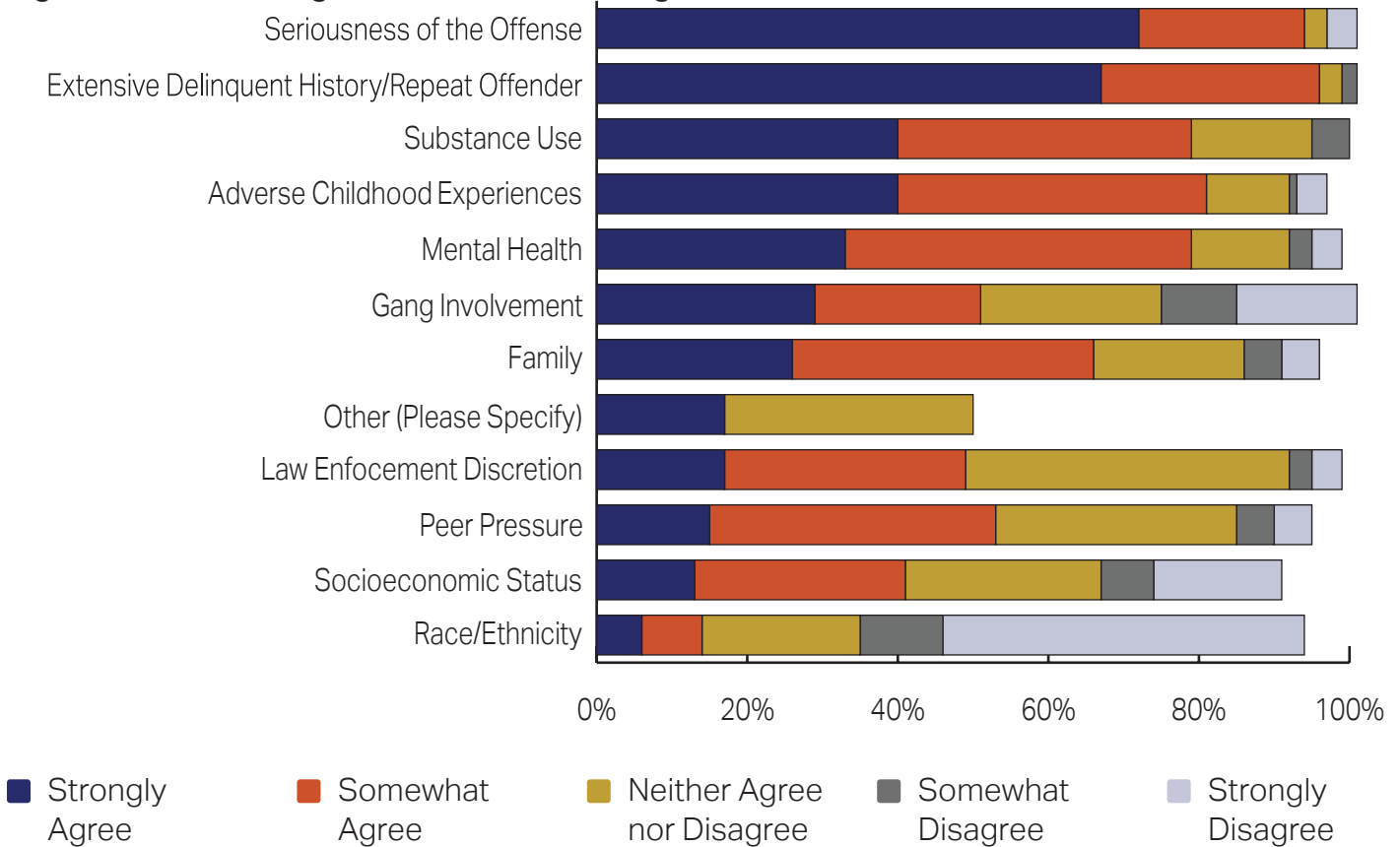
	More	Same	Less	Don't Know
Arrested	50.0%	27.8%	13.8%	8.3%
Referred	53.8%	29.5%	7.3%	9.2%

## Contributing Factors to Youth Being Arrested/Referred

Stakeholders were asked, "to what extent do you believe the following factors contribute to youth being arrested and/or referred to the juvenile justice system?" They were given 11 options: race/ ethnicity, family, adverse childhood experiences, seriousness of offense, extensive delinquent history/repeat offender, gang involvement, socioeconomic status, mental health, substance use, law enforcement discretion and other. Participants were asked to rank each option as "strongly agree," "somewhat agree," "neither agree nor disagree," "somewhat disagree," and "strongly disagree." The most common factor believed to contribute to a youth being arrested/referred to

the juvenile justice system is the "seriousness of the offense." Seventy-three percent of agencies report the seriousness of the offense leads to a juvenile being arrested or referred to the juvenile justice system. Sixty-seven percent of agencies report "repeat offender" is the second most common contributor. Nearly half (48%) of the participants "strongly disagree" that race/ethnicity contributes to youth being arrested or referred.

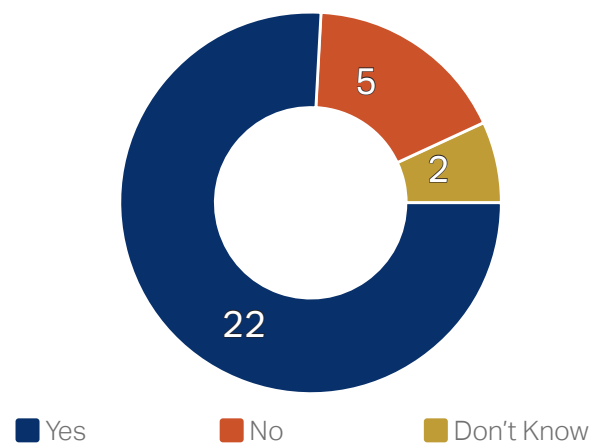
**Figure 4. Contributing Factors to Youth Being Arrested/Referred**



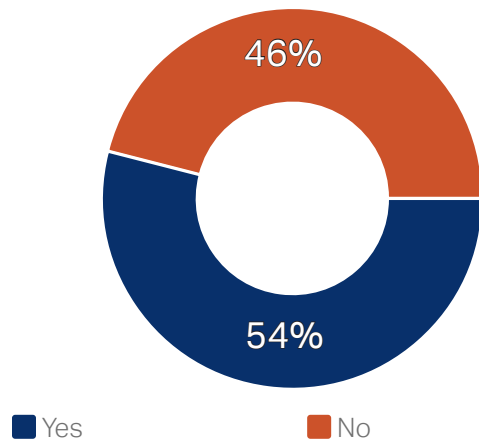
## Agency Policy and Use of Risk Assessment Tool

Probation officers were the only stakeholders asked, "is a screening tool, such as a risk assessment, used to determine if detention is appropriate for the youth?" Out of the 29 responses, 22 departments report they use a risk assessment tool, 5 report they do not use a risk assessment tool and 2 departments "don't know" if they use a risk assessment tool.

**Figure 5. Use of a Risk Assessment**



**Figure 6. Policy for Agencies**



Probation officers, public defenders, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies were asked if they “have a policy in place for how to handle contacts/interactions with juveniles?” No responses were recorded for prosecutors. There was a total of 110 respondents, however, there were 41 respondents who did not respond to this question. More than half (54%) of the agencies reported they have a policy in place, 46% reported they do not have a policy in place.

## Perception of Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Overall, most respondents (62%) believe there are no racial and ethnic disparities in their county. Twenty-four percent of agencies believe there are disparities in their county. Two detention facilities believe there are racial and ethnic disparities within their county. Both agencies suggested continued training for law enforcement, as well as creating a positive interaction between youth and law enforcement to help reduce racial and ethnic disparities.

## Efforts to Reduce Red

Figure 7 illustrates responses to the survey question, “In the past five years, which of the following efforts has your agency put forth to reduce RED in the local juvenile justice system?” Participants were given a list of 10 items and asked to “select all that apply.” Figure 7 shows how respondents answered. Twenty-one percent of the respondents agreed training and educating staff was the leading effort to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in their county. Other efforts counties used to reduce racial and ethnic disparities were training and educating the community (12%) and assessing counties individual policies and procedures (11%).

**Figure 7. Efforts to Reduce RED**

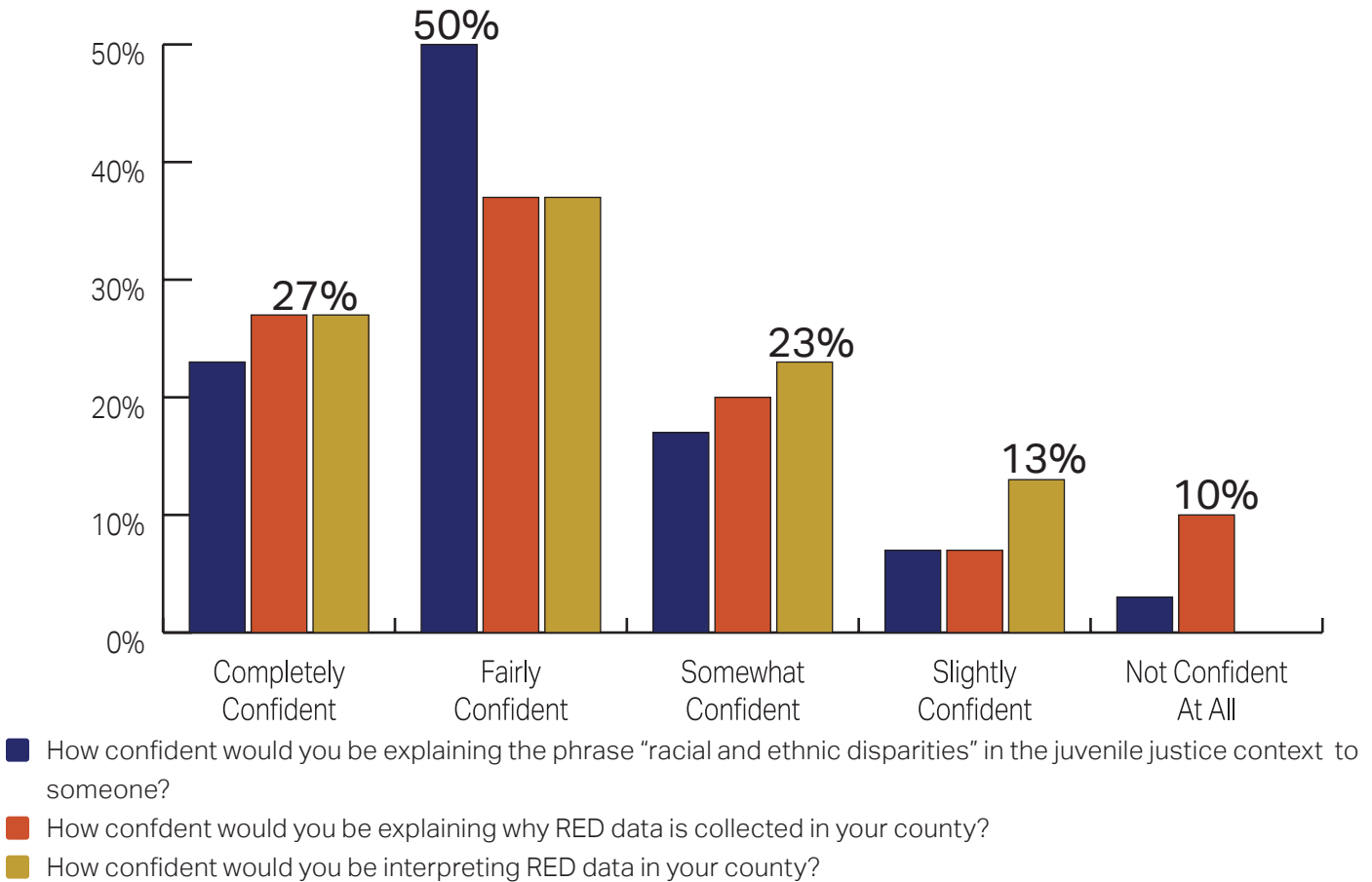




# Probation

Probation had the highest response rate. There was a total of 30 responses, however, the number of responses varied from question to question ranging from 28-30 respondents. The majority of probation professionals consisted of such titles as: Juvenile Probation Officer, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Officer, Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Supervisor, and Case Manager.

Figure 8. Level of Confidence



## Data Management

Majority (90%) of probation officers use SRS as their case management system (CMS) to collect RED data. Sixty-seven percent of probation departments collect arrest data. Sixty percent responded that arrest data can be collected through their CMS. Fifty-three percent of probation officers report they can report arrest data with their quarterly RED report, if required. Fifty-two percent report there are no challenges to collecting juvenile arrest data.

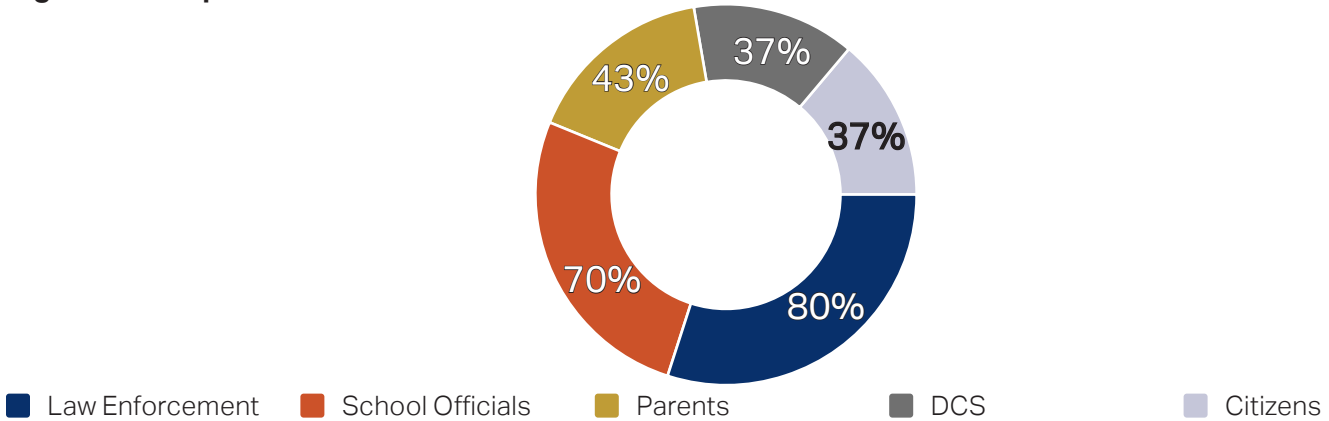
## Defining, Explaining and Interpreting RED

Probation officers ranked their confidence on defining, explaining, and interpreting RED data. Majority of probation officers ranked themselves as "fairly confident" in all three categories. Four participants ranked themselves as "not confident at all". However, every probation officer reported they could interpret RED data in some capacity.

## Referrals

Eighty percent report majority of their referrals are received from law enforcement. The second most frequently reported source of referrals are school officials (70%). Parents are ranked third and fourth, followed by Department of Child Services and citizens.

Figure 9. Frequent Source of Referrals

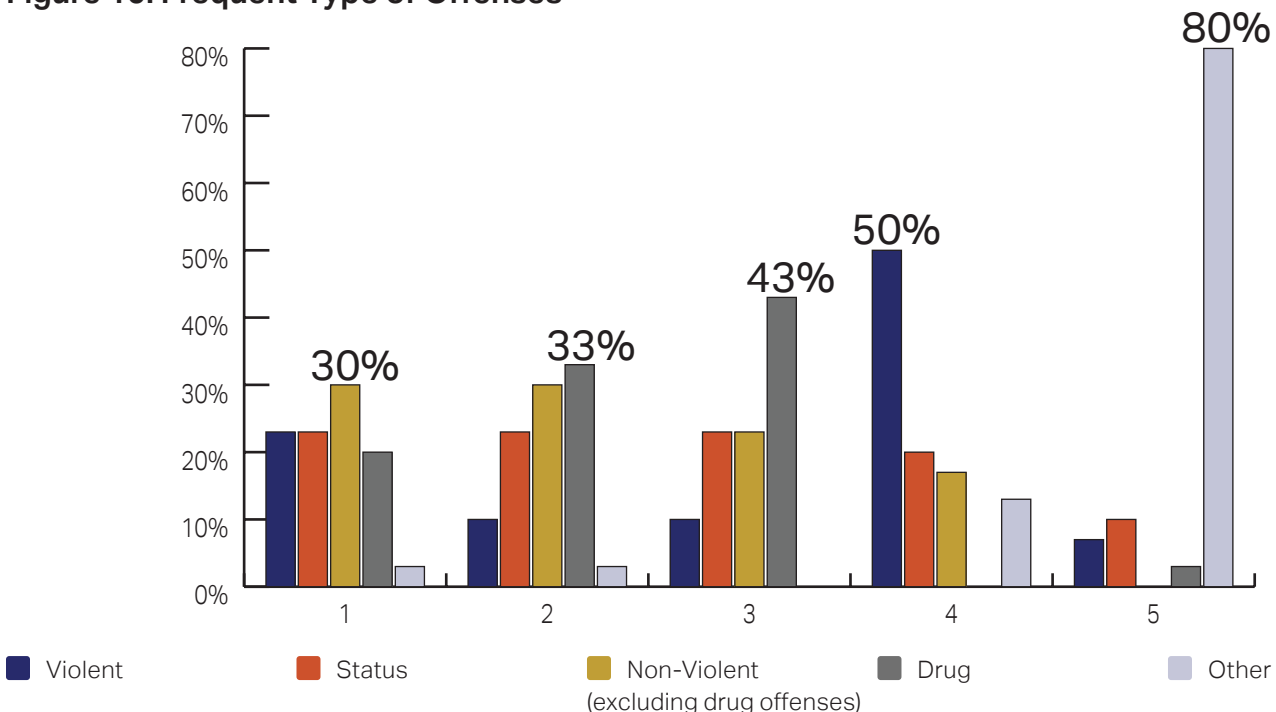


## Frequent Type of Offense

Probation officers were asked to answer the following question: "based on your experience, what is the most frequent type of offense that juveniles are detained for in your county?" They were asked to rank the most frequent type (1) of offense to the least frequent (5) type of offense.

Thirty percent of probation officers reported, based on their experience, non-violent offenses were the most common offenses among juveniles. Drug offenses were ranked among the top three offenses committed by juveniles. A combined 76% ranked drug offenses as the second or third most common juvenile offense. Followed by violent offense ranking as the 4<sup>th</sup> (out of 5 listed) most common type of juvenile offense.

Figure 10. Frequent Type of Offenses



# Juvenile Facilities

More than 50% of probation officers report noticing a decrease in the number of juveniles housed in a juvenile facility. Approximately, 27% report an increase and the remaining 19% report “No change” in the number of juveniles house in a detention facility.

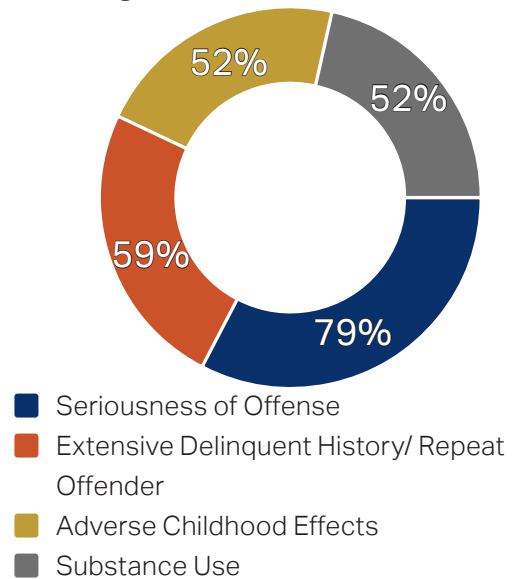
## Frequency of Arrests for White Youths v. other Racial/Ethnic Groups

More than half (60%) of probation officers agree White youths are arrested and detained more frequently than other racial and ethnic groups in their county. Approximately, 30% of probation officers report White youths are arrested and detained at the same rate as other racial and ethnic groups.

## Contributing Factors Leading to Arrest

Probation officers were asked the following question: “to what extent do you believe the following factors contribute to youth being arrested and/or referred to the juvenile justice system?” Eleven options were listed to choose from, those options were: Race/ethnicity, family, adverse childhood experiences, seriousness of the offense, extensive delinquent history/repeat offender, gang involvement, socioeconomic status, mental health, substance use, law enforcement discretion, and other. Seventy-nine percent of probation officers believe the “seriousness of offense” contribute to youth being arrested or referred to the juvenile justice system. Fifty-nine percent believe the “extensive delinquent history/repeat offender. Fifty-two percent of probation officers believe “adverse childhood effects” and “substance abuse” contribute to youth being arrested or referred at the criminal justice system. Approximately, 56% of probation officers believe “race/ethnicity” are not a contributor to youth being arrested or referred.

**Figure 11. Contributing Factors Leading to Youth Arrest**



## Risk Assessments

Twenty-two counties (76%) report using a risk assessment to determine if detention is appropriate for youth. Five counties report not using a risk assessment tool and the remaining two counties “Don’t know” if they use a risk assessment.

## Belief of RED in County

Seventy-six percent of probation officers believe there is no racial and ethnic disparity in their county. Fourteen percent believe there is a disparity in their county and the remaining 11% “don’t know” if there is a disparity in their county.

# Law Enforcement

Law enforcement recorded the most responses at 45, however, throughout the survey the number of respondents answering each question ranged from 33-45 responses. The titles of respondents varied from Police Officer, Sheriff, Chief of Police, Assistant/Deputy Chief of Police, Town Marshal, Major and Lieutenant.

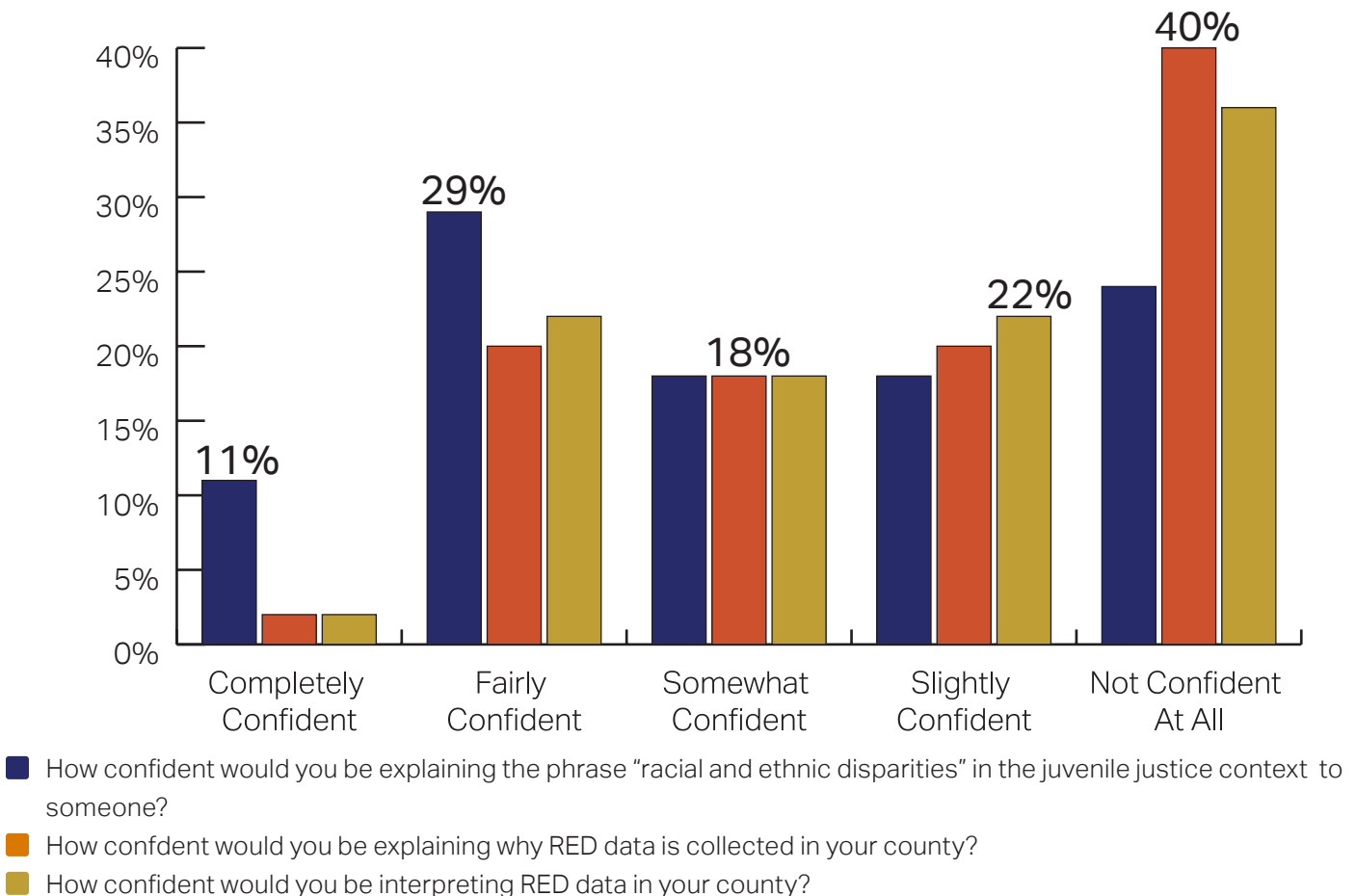
## Data Management

Law Enforcement report 87% of agencies collect arrest data for juveniles. Eighty-four percent of law enforcement responded that arrest data for juveniles can be collected through their Jail Management System (JMS). Sixty-nine percent report there are no barriers or challenges to collecting juvenile arrest data.

## Defining, Explaining and Interpreting RED

Twenty-nine percent of law enforcement report they are “fairly confident” they could explain racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice context to someone. Forty percent of LE report they are “not confident at all” in explaining why RED data is collected. Thirty-six percent report they are “not confident at all” with interpreting RED data. On average, it appears law enforcement is either “fairly confident” or “not confident at all” when it comes to defining, explaining and interpreting RED data.

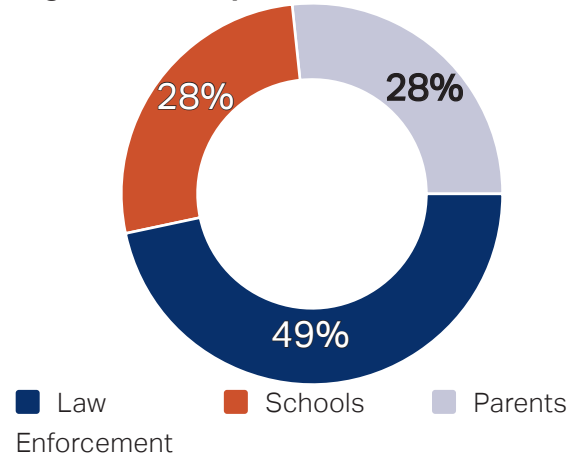
Figure 12. Level of Confidence



## Referrals

Law enforcement report the most frequent source of referrals for youth into the juvenile justice system comes from law enforcement (49%), followed by schools (28%), and parents (28%). Law enforcement ranked prosecutors as the 6<sup>th</sup> (out of 9) most received referrals for youths.

Figure 13. Frequent Source of Referrals

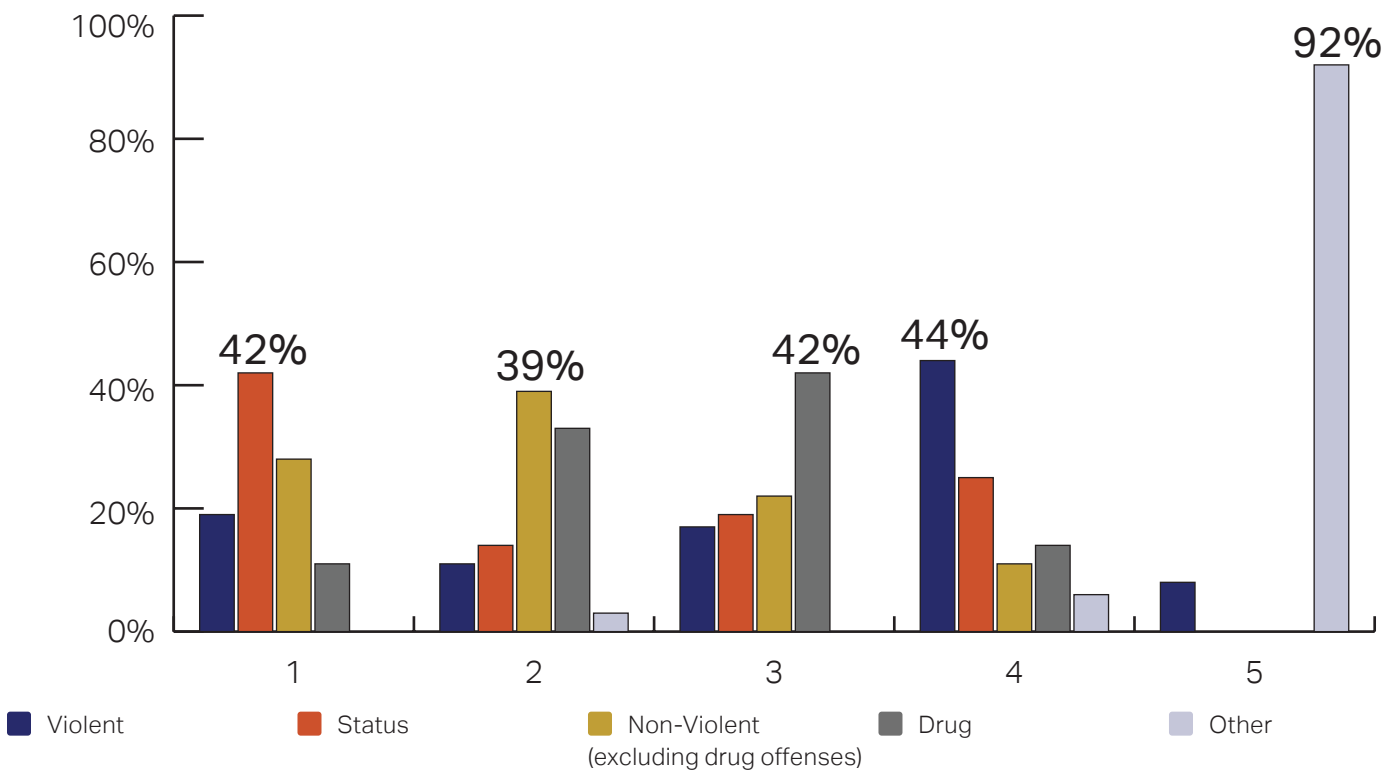


## Frequent Type of Offense

Law enforcement was asked to answer the following question: "based on your experience, what is the most frequent type of offense that juveniles are detained for in your county?" They were asked to rank the most frequent type (1) of offense to the least frequent (5) type of offense.

Based on law enforcement experience the most frequent type of offense that juveniles are detained for are "status" offenses. Following "status" offenses, were "non-violent" offenses (39%) then "drug" offenses (42%). Law enforcement ranked prosecutors as the 6<sup>th</sup> (out of 9) most received referrals for youths, followed by community providers (7<sup>th</sup>) and "other". Business owners/ Retail stores was the only category that received no votes.

Figure 14. Frequent Type of Offense



When asked approximately how many youths are currently detained for the following offenses, few law enforcement officers responded. Vigo county was the leading county housing "violent", "status" and "non-violent" juvenile offenders. Madison is the only county to house 2 juveniles for drug offenses.

**Table 4. Number of Youths Detained for Each Offense**

	Violent	Status	Non-Violent	Drug
DeKalb	2	2	0	0
Madison	2	0	1	2
Vigo	8	3	5	0
TOTAL	12	5	6	2

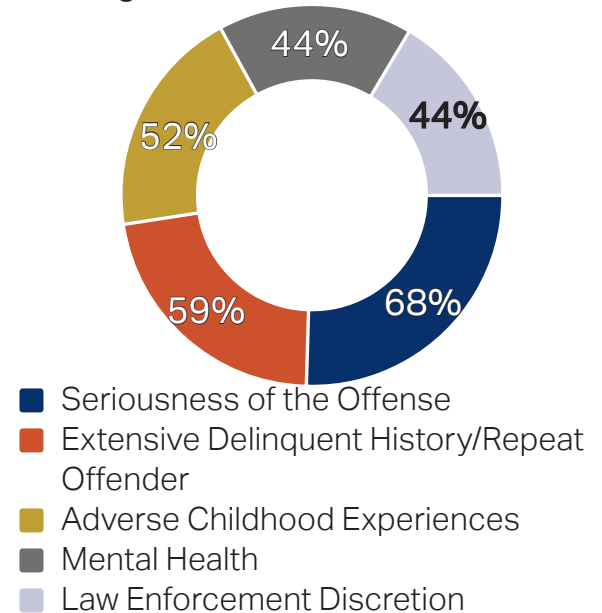
## Frequency of Arrests for White Youths v. other Racial/Ethnic Groups

Fifty-three percent of law enforcement believe White youths are arrested more frequently than other racial and ethnic groups in their county. Forty-four percent believe White youths are referred more frequently than other racial and ethnic groups. 36% of law enforcement reported the number youth held in detention facilities has either decreased or did not change at all.

## Contributing Factors Leading to Arrest

68% of law enforcement believe the "seriousness of offense" is the largest contributor to youth being arrested or referred to the juvenile justice system. Another 59% believe "extensive delinquent history/ repeat offender" contribute to youth being arrested and/or referred to the justice system. 51% "somewhat agree" "adverse childhood experiences" contribute to youth being involved in the juvenile justice system. 82% "strongly disagree" race/ethnicity contribute to youth being involved in the juvenile justice system.

**Figure 15. Contributing Factors Leading to Youth Arrests**



## Agency Policy

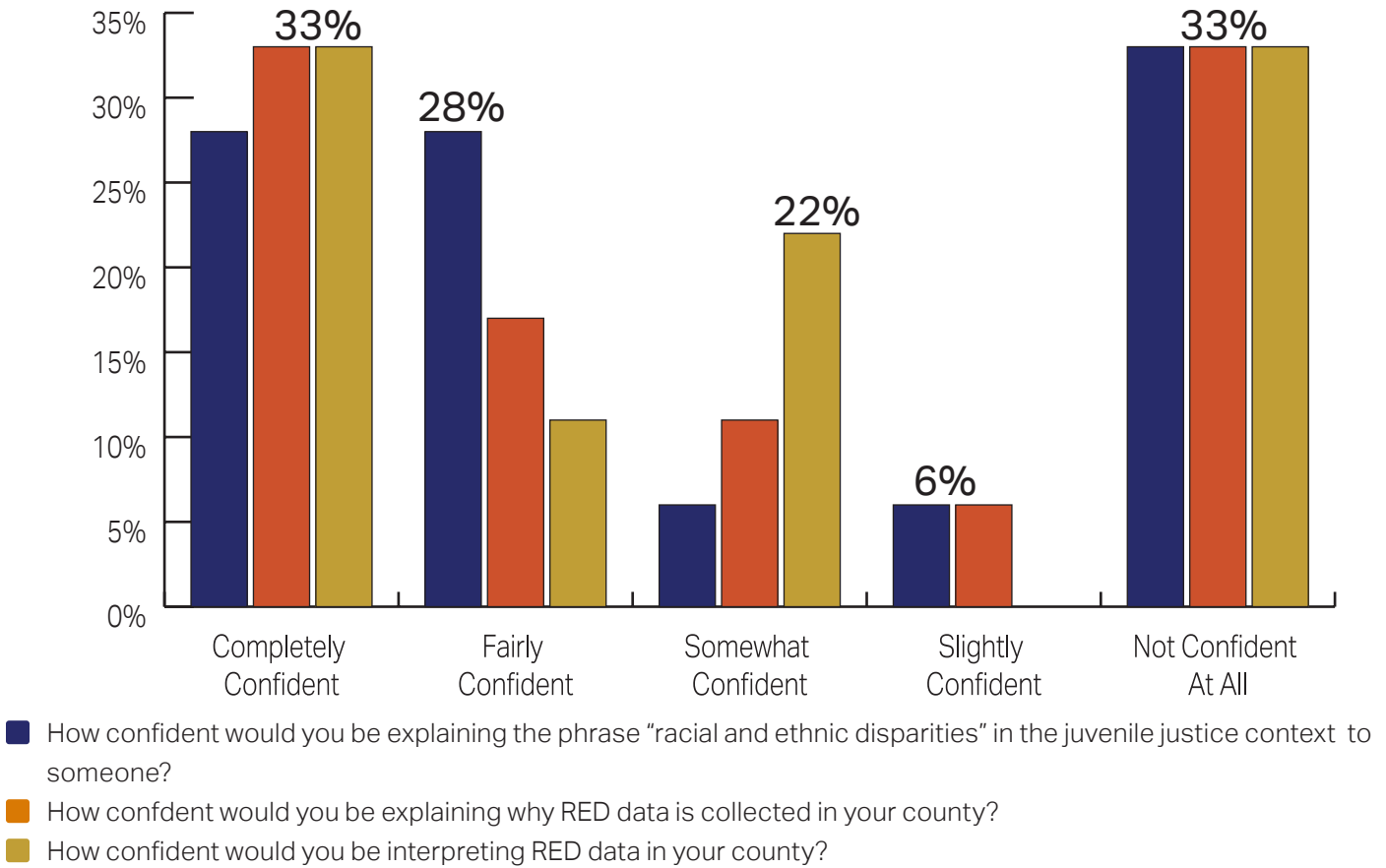
The majority of law enforcement agencies surveyed (59%, or 20 agencies) reported having a policy in place for how to handle contacts and interactions with juveniles. However, a significant minority of agencies (14 agencies, or 41%) reported not having a policy in place.

# Prosecution

## Defining, Explaining and Interpreting RED

It seems that there is a split among prosecutors regarding their confidence in explaining racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice context and interpreting RED data. While 33% of prosecutors report being “completely confident” in explaining why RED data is collected and interpreting it in their county, another 33% report being “not confident at all” in explaining the concept of RED and interpreting the data.

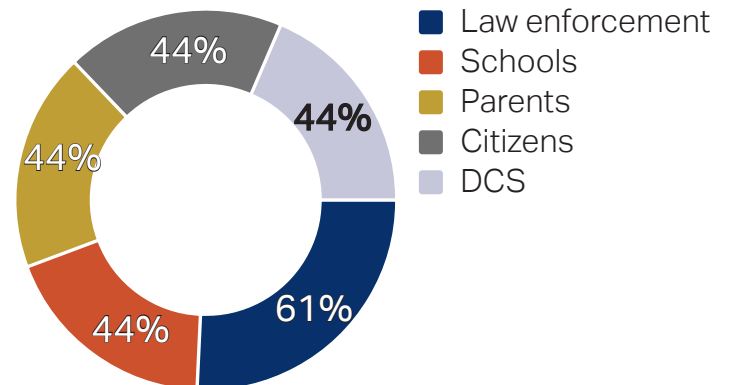
**Figure 16. Level of Confidence**



# Referrals

It appears majority of referrals are being collected through a case management system, 72% of respondents reporting this as the case. In terms of referral sources, it appears “law enforcement” is the most common source, with 61% of respondents report that most of their referrals come from law enforcement. “Schools” and “parents” are also significant referrals, with both being reported by 44% of respondents.

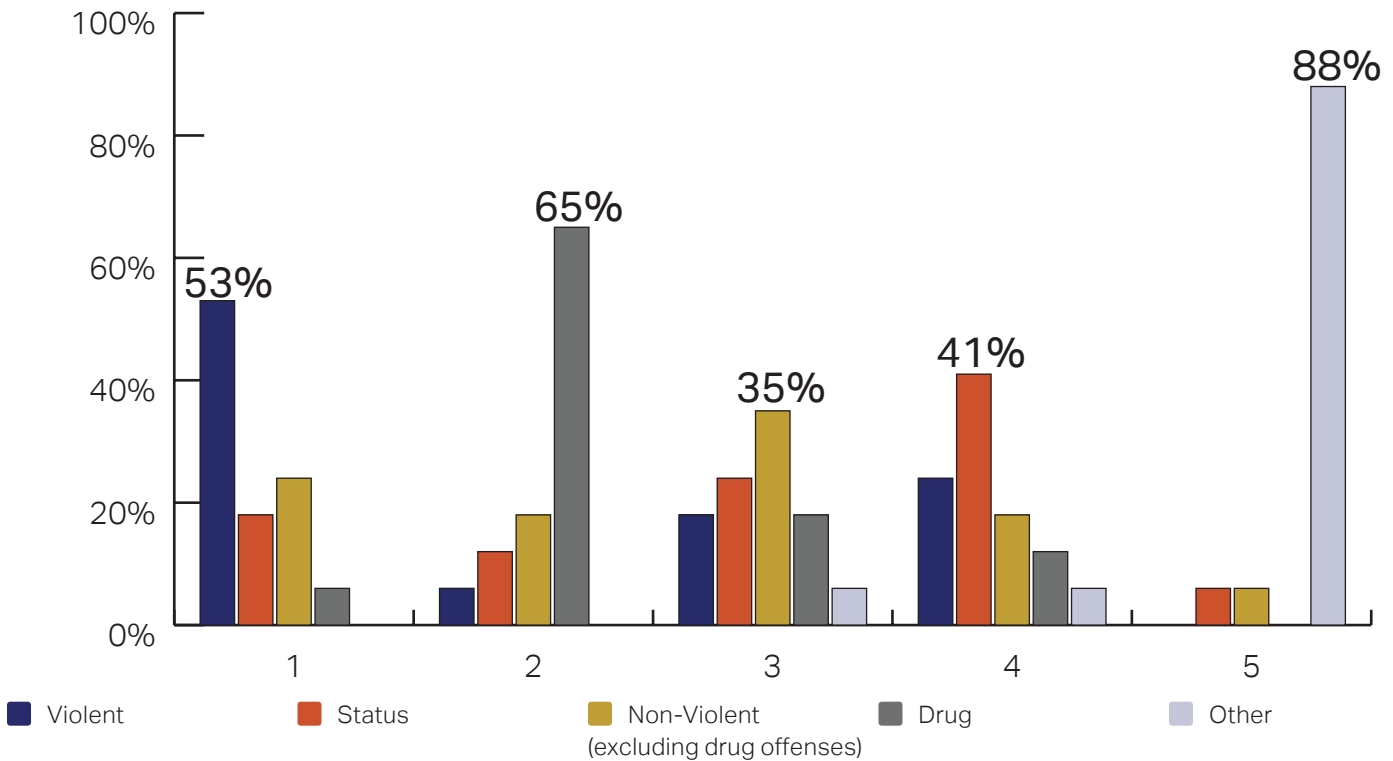
**Figure 17. Frequent Source of Referrals**



## Frequent Type of Offense

It appears that "violent" offenses are the most frequent type of offense, with 53% of respondents reporting them as the most common. This is followed by "drug" offenses, which were reported by 65% of respondents. "Non-violent" offenses were ranked third, with 35% of respondents reporting them as the most common. "Status" offenses received seven votes and were reported by 41% of respondents as the fourth most common offense.

Figure 18. Frequent Type of Offense



## Frequency of Arrests for White Youths v. other Racial/Ethnic Groups

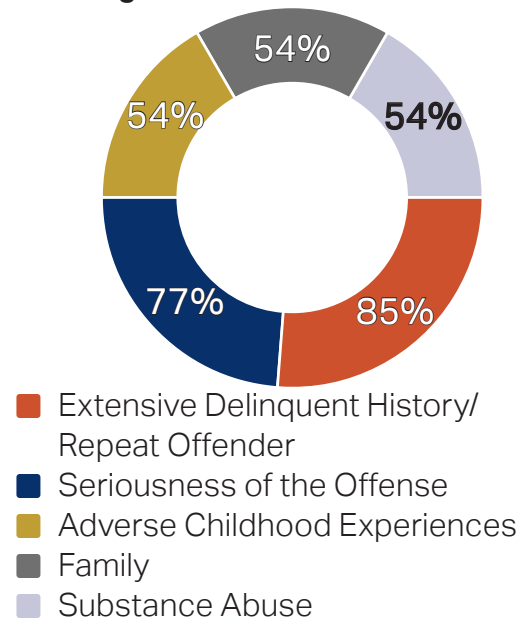
It appears that there is a perception among respondents that White youths are arrested and referred "more frequently" than other groups. Specifically, 93% of respondents reported that White youths are arrested "more frequently" than other groups, and 85% reported that White youths are referred "more frequently."



## Contributing Factors Leading to Arrest

Prosecutors perceive "extensive delinquent history/repeat offender" (85%) and "seriousness of the offense" (77%) as the most important factors contributing to youth being arrested or referred. Prosecutors also somewhat agree that "family," "adverse childhood experiences (ACE)," and "substance abuse" contribute to youth being arrested or referred, with 54% of prosecutors reporting this. While this figure is lower than the percentages for "extensive delinquent history/repeat offender" and "seriousness of the offense," it still suggests that these factors are important considerations for prosecutors.

**Figure 19. Contributing Factors Leading to Youth Arrest**



## Summary of Court Process

Prosecutors were asked a series of questions relating to juveniles before or during the court process. Their responses are summarized below.

It seems that factors considered when determining whether a juvenile will be detained during the court process include the safety of the child and community, risk to self and others, seriousness of the offense, prior contacts with the juvenile justice system, and the willingness of a parent or guardian to take the child.

Factors considered when determining if a juvenile case should be diverted include the seriousness of the offense, prior contacts with the juvenile justice system, parent and child's willingness to participate in diversion or informal adjustment, and available programs or services that can address the juvenile's issues.

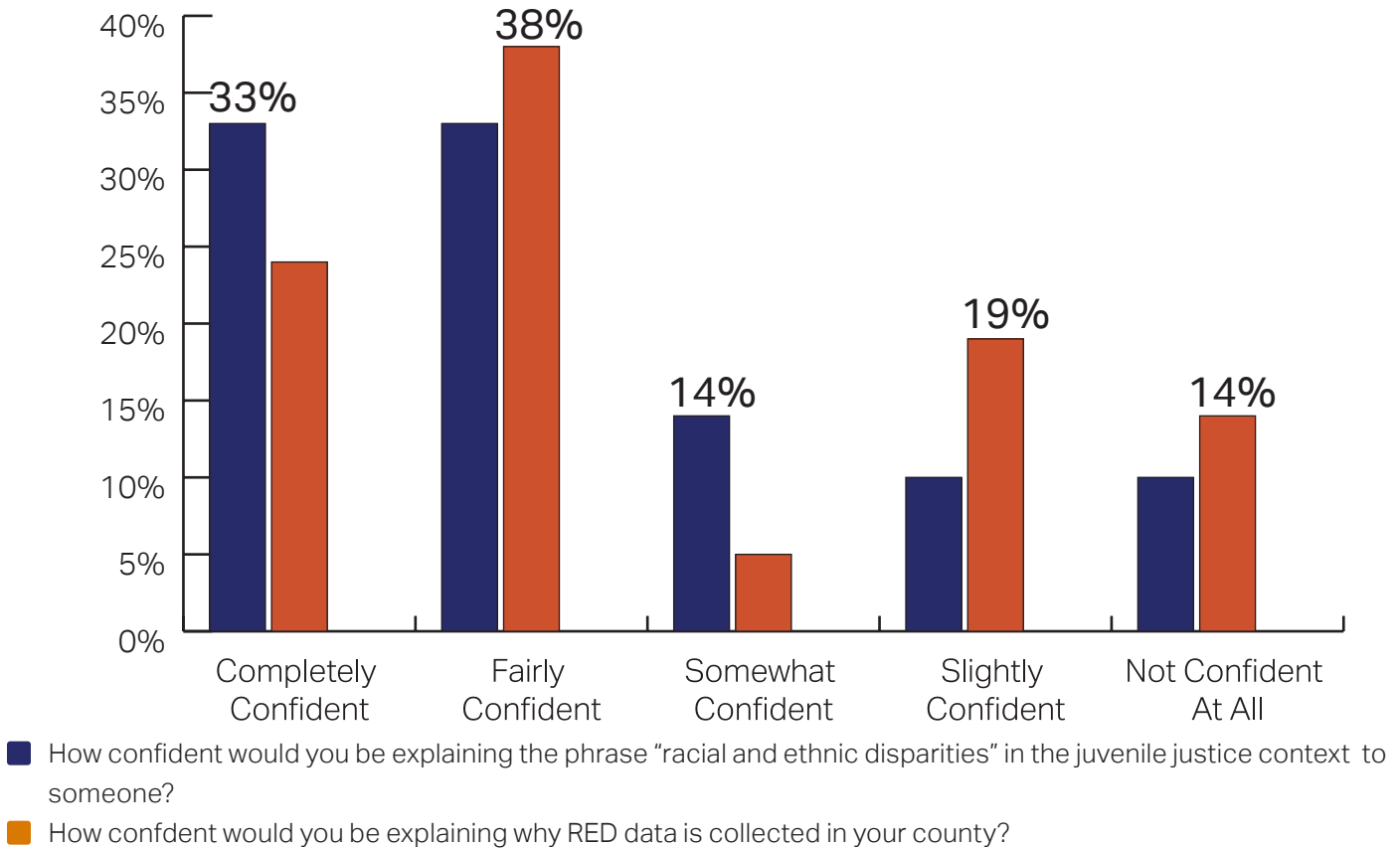
When proposing a sentence for a juvenile found delinquent, factors that may be considered include the type and seriousness of the offense, the juvenile's prior history and compliance with terms while the case was pending, the level of risk of reoffending, the appropriateness of supervision and treatment, and the recommendations of service providers. Rehabilitation and accountability may also be considered, but to a lesser extent.

# Judges

## Defining, Explaining and Interpreting RED

It seems that judges have varying levels of confidence when it comes to explaining racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice context and interpreting RED data collected in their county. More judges reported being “fairly confident” (38%) than “completely confident” (33%) when it comes to explaining why RED data is collected. However, no county answered the final question about how confident they would be interpreting RED data collected in their county.

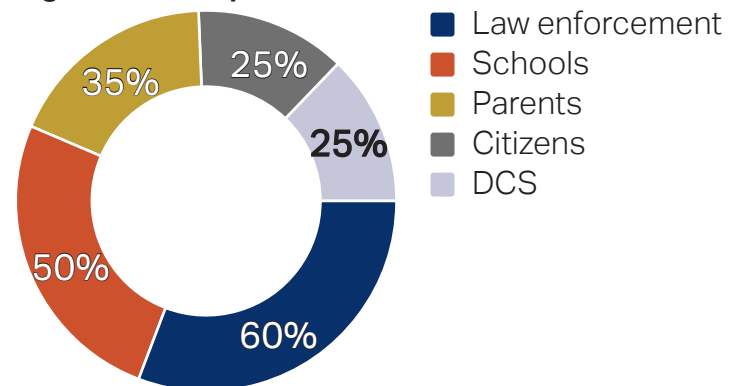
**Figure 20. Level of Confidence**



## Referrals

Judges report “law enforcement” (60%) and “schools” (50%) are the most frequent sources of referrals to the juvenile justice system, followed by “parents,” “prosecutors,” and “community providers.”

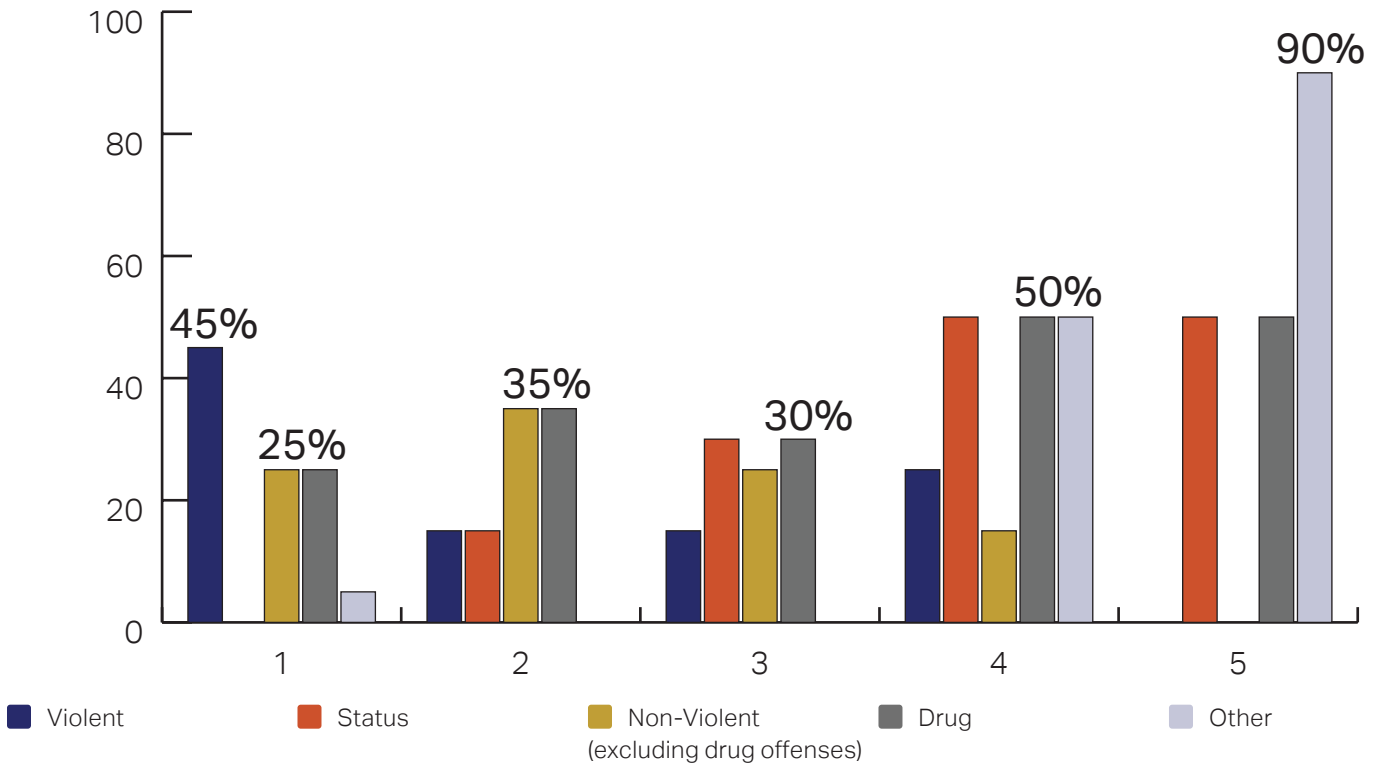
**Figure 21. Frequent Source of Referrals**



## Frequent Type of Offense

“Violent” offenses are the most frequent type of offense that juveniles are detained for in their county, followed by “non-violent” and “drug” offenses. Judges believe “status” offenses are the fourth most common offense juveniles are detained for.

Figure 22. Frequent Type of Offense



## Juvenile Facilities

There is some variation among judges in terms of whether the number of youths held in detention facilities has increased or decreased over the past few years.

Nearly half of the judges surveyed (47%) reported a decrease in the number of youths held in detention facilities, which suggests that efforts to reduce the use of detention may be having some success in certain jurisdictions. However, a sizable minority (32%) did report an increase in the number of youths held in detention facilities, which may suggest that in some areas, the use of detention is still prevalent or even on the rise. Finally, 21% of judges reported no change in the number of youths held in detention facilities.

## Frequency of Arrests for White Youths v. other Racial/Ethnic Groups

According to the survey results, on the one hand, 32% of judges reported that White youths are arrested “more frequently” than other racial and ethnic groups, which could suggest that there are racial disparities in arrest rates that are impacting White youth. On the other hand, an equal percentage (32%) reported that White youths are arrested “less frequently” than other racial and ethnic groups, which could suggest that White youth are not overrepresented in the juvenile justice system in these counties.

Similarly, 37% of judges reported that White youths are referred “more frequently” than other racial and ethnic groups, which could indicate that there are disparities in the way that different groups of youth are being referred to the juvenile justice system. However, 26% of judges reported that White youth are referred at the same rate as other racial and ethnic groups.

## Contributing Factors Leading to Arrest

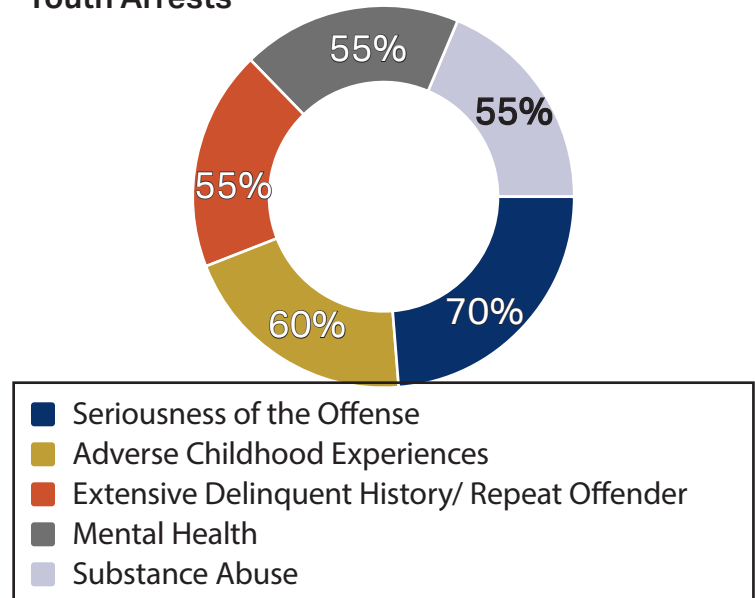
The survey results suggest that judges believe that the “seriousness of the offense” is the most significant factor contributing to youth being arrested and/or referred to the juvenile justice system. This view is held by a large majority of judges, with 70% indicating that they believe the “seriousness of the offense” is the primary factor.

In addition, a significant proportion of judges (55%) strongly agree that an “extensive delinquent history or repeat offending” is a contributing factor to youth being arrested and/or referred. This suggests that judges are placing a significant emphasis on a youth’s prior involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Furthermore, a majority of judges (60%) somewhat agree that “adverse childhood experiences” contribute to youth being involved in the juvenile justice system. This highlights the recognition among judges that environmental factors and childhood trauma can have an impact on a youth’s behavior and involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Finally, 55% of judges somewhat agree that “family,” “mental health,” and “substance use” are contributing factors to youth being involved in the juvenile justice system. This suggests that judges recognize the importance of considering a youth’s social and mental health needs when making decisions about their involvement in the juvenile justice system.

**Figure 23. Contributing Factors Leading to Youth Arrests**



The factors listed in the various statements are all considerations that may be taken into account when deciding whether to detain a child in a juvenile detention center or release them to the custody of a parent or guardian. Some of the common themes that emerge from these statements include:

- The seriousness of the offense: This is often a key factor in determining whether a child should be detained, particularly if the offense involves violence or other threats to public safety.
- The child's past delinquent history: This includes factors like prior arrests or convictions, as well as any history of failing to appear for court dates or comply with court orders.
- The child's potential risk to themselves or others: If a child is deemed to be a danger to themselves or others, this may weigh heavily in favor of detention.
- The availability of suitable alternatives: Depending on the circumstances, there may be alternative placements available that could be more appropriate for the child than detention, such as placement with a suitable relative or in a community-based program.
- The involvement of the child's parents or guardians: Parents' willingness and ability to supervise and care for the child can be a critical factor in determining whether detention is necessary.
- The best interests and welfare of the child: Ultimately, the decision to detain a child should be made with the child's best interests in mind, taking into account their safety, well-being, and future prospects.

Other factors that may be considered include the child's age, the severity of the alleged offense, whether the child is a repeat offender, and whether there are concerns about the child's flight risk or likelihood of appearing for subsequent proceedings. Ultimately, the decision to detain a child is a complex one that should be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account all of the relevant factors and weighing the potential risks and benefits of each option.

## **Belief of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in County**

It's important to note that judges' perceptions of racial and ethnic disparities may not necessarily reflect the reality of such disparities in their county. However, based on their perceptions, 60% of judges believe there are no racial and ethnic disparities in their county, while 30% believe there are disparities and 10% are unsure.

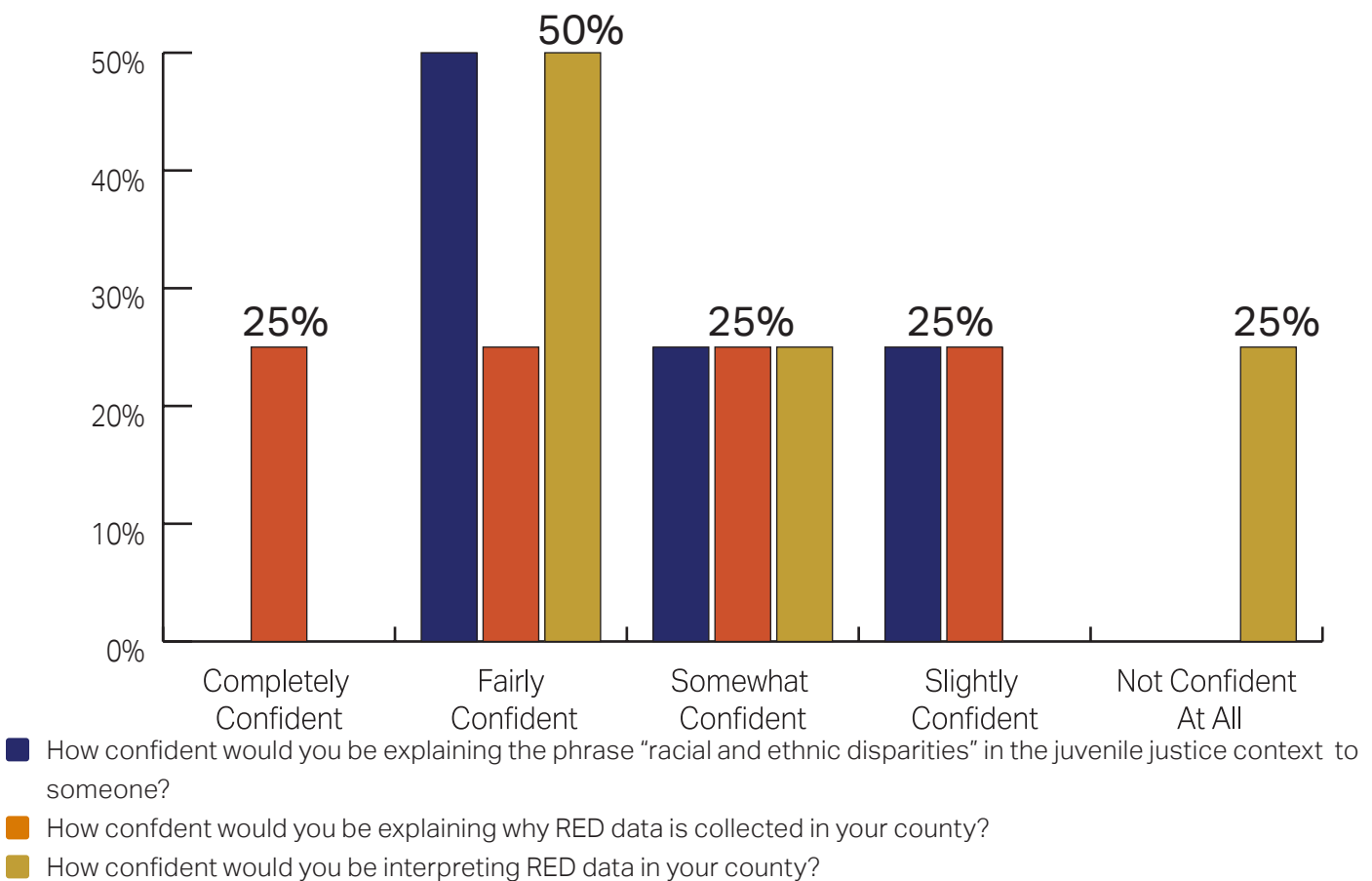
# Detention Centers

There are a total of 19 juvenile detention centers located throughout the state of Indiana. A total of 22 emails were sent to detention facilities personnel. Out of the 22 emails, a total of four responses were received. Therefore, data presented may not be representative of all 19 detention facilities.

## Defining, Explaining and Interpreting RED

Only 25% of the respondents feel “completely confident” in their ability to explain the reasons behind the collection of RED data. About half (50%) of the respondents are “fairly confident” in their ability to explain the meaning of racial and ethnic disparities in the context of the juvenile justice system. Additionally, another 50% of the respondents reported feeling “fairly confident” in interpreting RED data.

Figure 24. Level of Confidence



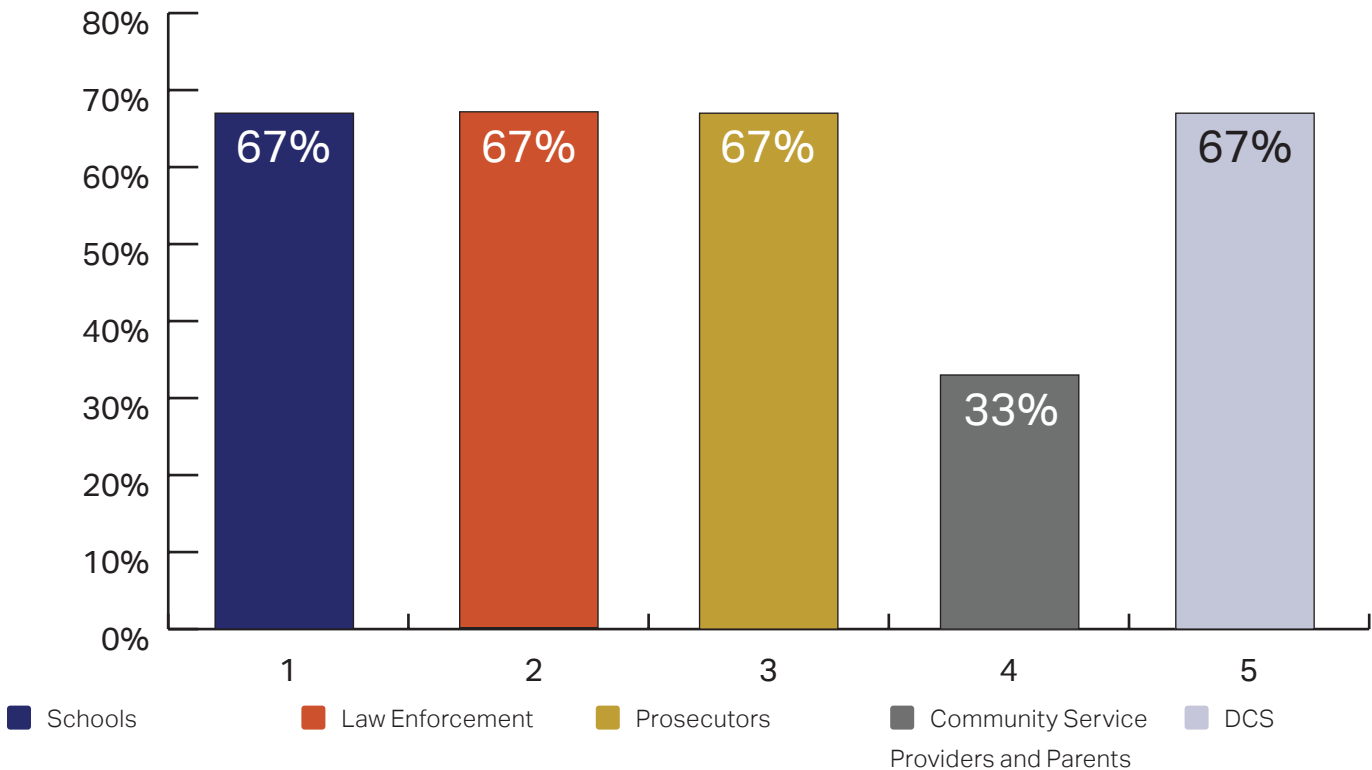
## Data Management

Three out of four agencies (75%) report that they collect racial and ethnic information from juveniles who are admitted to their facility. A quarter (25%) of the respondents reported that they “do not know” if their agency collects racial and ethnic information from juveniles. All four agencies stated that they collect information on how juveniles became involved in the justice system, including referrals, arrests, and other methods. Two-thirds (67%) of the agencies reported that there are no barriers or challenges to collecting referral or arrest data. One county reported that they face barriers and challenges when collecting data, with incomplete or insufficient information sometimes provided by officers.

## Referrals

Detention centers were asked to rank their most frequent (1) source of referrals to their least frequent (5) source of referrals. Figure 25 illustrates the following: most detention centers report majority (67%) of their referrals come from "school officials," "law enforcement," "prosecutor" and "DCS" as the most frequent source of referrals, followed by "community service providers" and "parents."

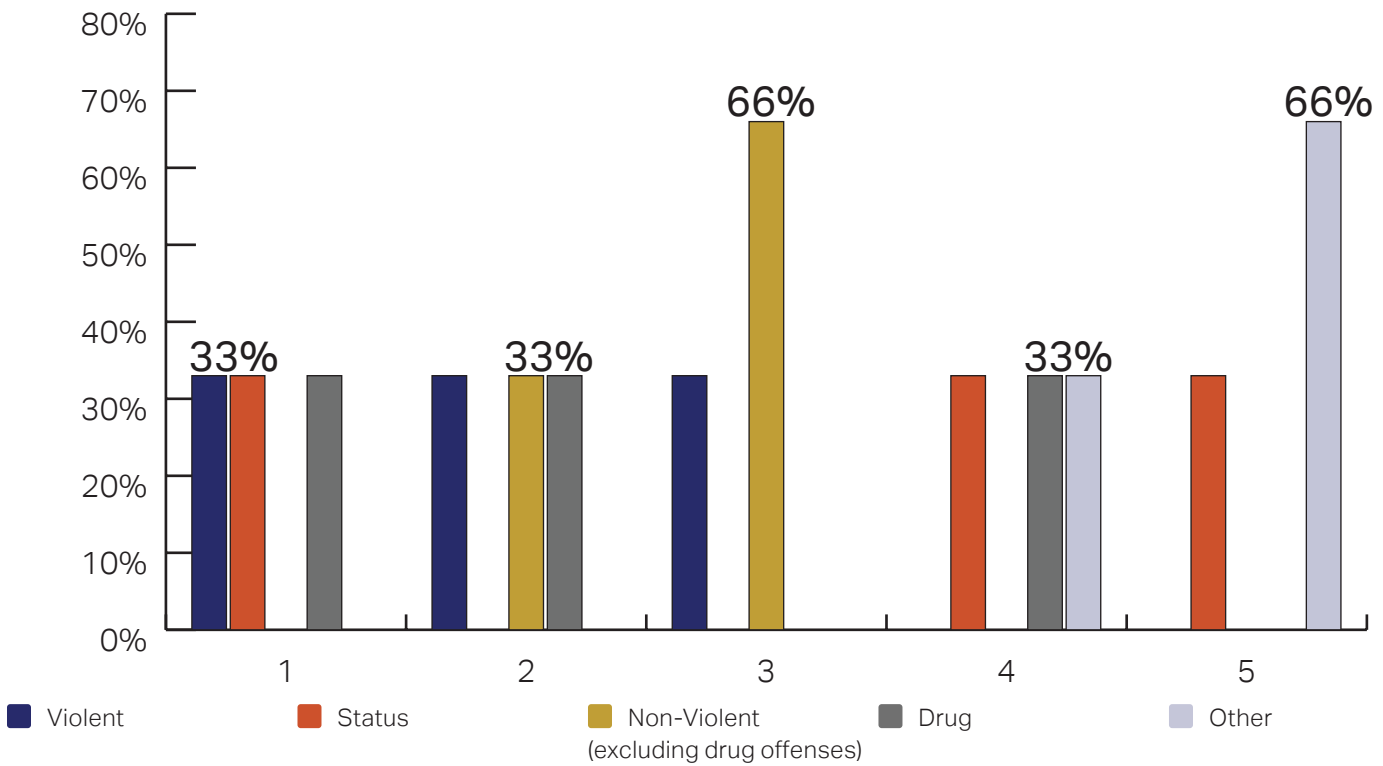
Figure 25. Frequent Source of Referrals



## Frequent Type of Offense

One-third (33%) of the jail/detention facilities surveyed agreed that the most frequent types of offenses fall under the categories of "violent," "status," and "drug" offenses. The remaining two-thirds (67%) reported that "non-violent" offenses are the third most common type of offense. Overall, the data suggests that "violent," "status," and "drug" offenses are the most frequently committed offenses, with "non-violent" offenses also being common.

**Figure 26. Frequent Type of Offense**



## Number of Juveniles Detained

Detention centers were asked how many youths were currently detained at their facility. Table 5 are the responses from three counties. Three fourths of detention centers believe the number of youths placed in their facility has increased in capacity over the past few years, whereas the remaining 33% report the capacity has decreased.

**Table 5. Number of Youths Detained in Detention Facilities**

County	Violent	Status	Non-violent	Drug	Other
Elkhart	10	0	4	3	3
Johnson	13	You cannot detain for status - they can be referred	5	6	Many have both
Porter	7	0	1	0	0

## Frequency of Arrests for White Youths v. other Racial/Ethnic Groups

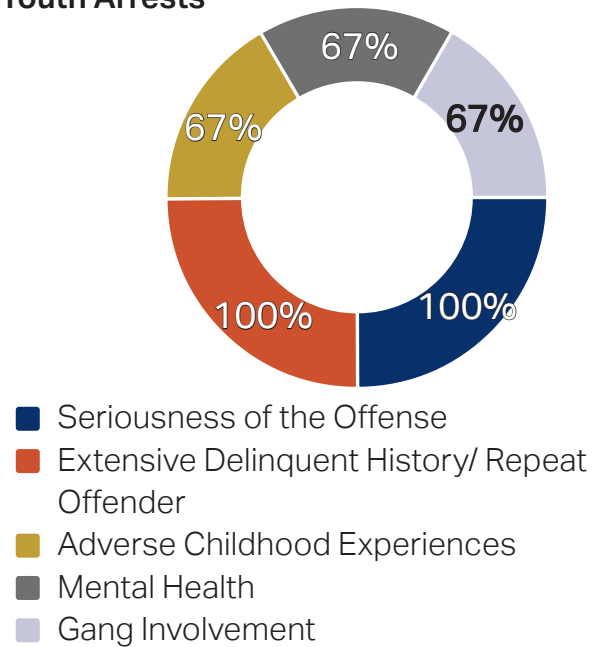
Three of the four detention centers believe White youths are placed in detention “more frequently” than other racial and ethnic groups. One third believe White youths are arrested “more frequently” as well. Additionally, 33% report White youths are arrested and detained the “same” as other racial and ethnic groups. Another 33% report White youths are arrested “less frequently” than other groups.



## Contributing Factors Leading to Arrest

All four detention centers reported they strongly agree the “seriousness of the offense” and “extensive delinquent history/repeat offender” is the number one contributing factor to youth being arrested. Another 67% strongly agree “adverse childhood experiences” is a contributing factor. Sixty-seven percent somewhat agree “mental health” is a contributing factor. Three of the four detention centers, unlike other responses, report “gang involvement” is a contributing factor.

Figure 27. Contributing Factors Leading to Youth Arrests



## Belief of RED in County

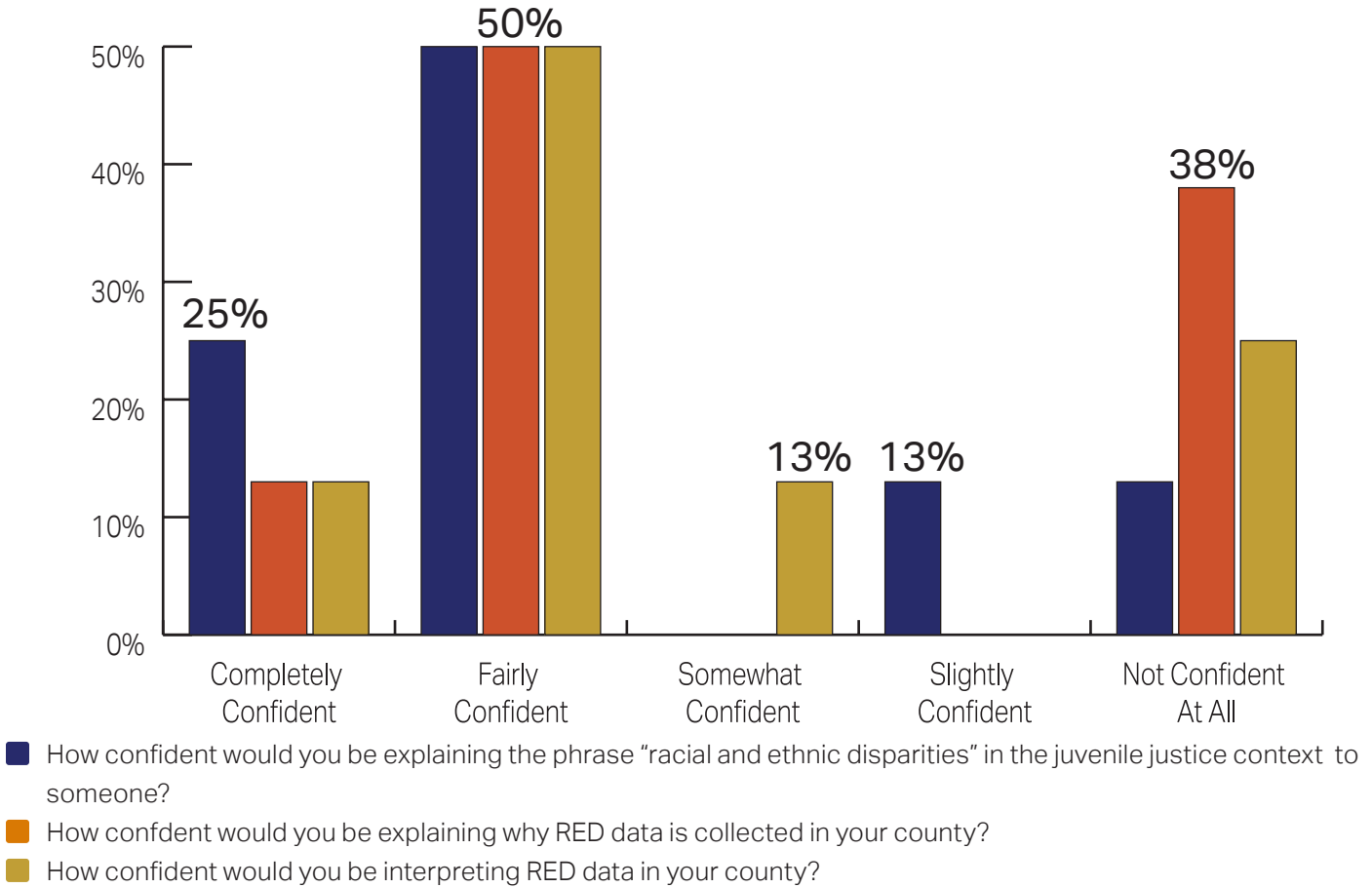
Three out of the four detention facilities report there are racial and ethnic disparities in their juvenile justice system.

# Public Defenders

## Defining, Explaining and Interpreting RED

Half (50%) of the respondents reported feeling “fairly confident” in all three categories. The other popular category among respondents is “not confident at all.” Thirty-eight percent of the respondents reported feeling “not confident” at all in their understanding of why RED data is collected in their county. Additionally, a quarter (25%) of the respondents reported “not feeling confident” in their ability to interpret RED data.

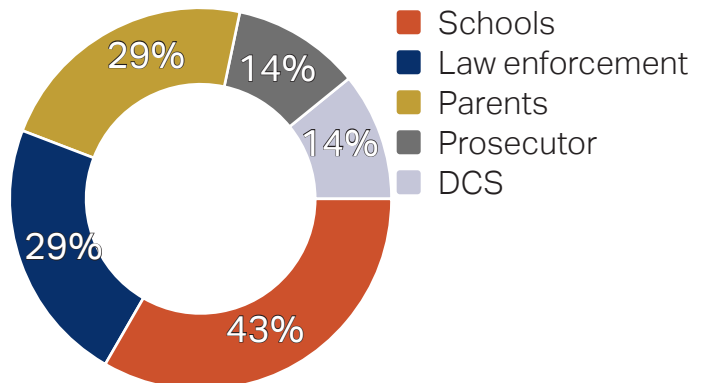
Figure 28. Level of Confidence



## Referrals

Public defenders reported the most frequent type of referrals come from “schools” (43%). “Parents” and “law enforcement” follow schools at 29%. Fourteen percent of referrals come from “prosecutors” and “DCS”.

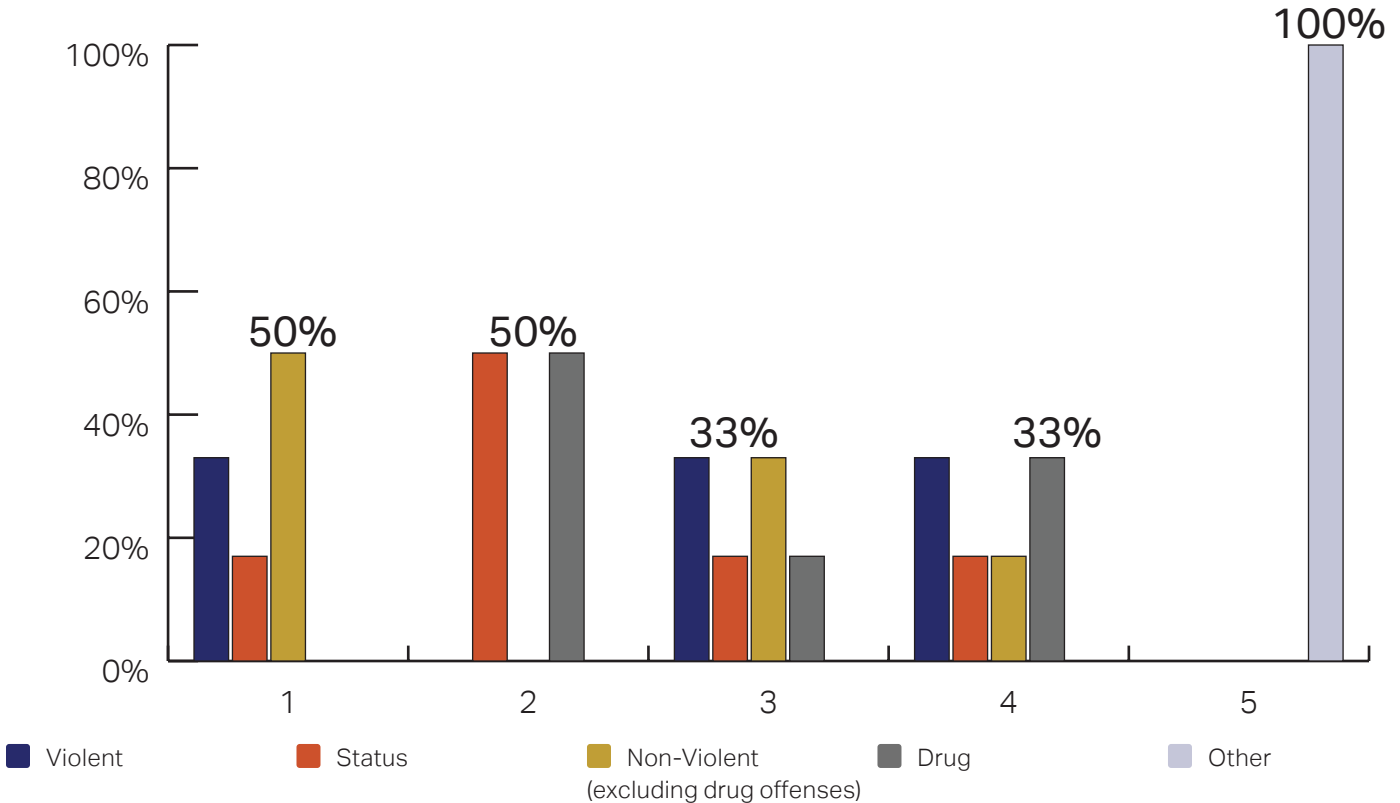
Figure 29. Frequent Source of Referrals



## Frequent Type of Offense

Public defenders report “non-violent” offenses are the most frequent type of offense at 50%. Followed by “status” and “drug” (both 50%). “Violent” offenses rank third and fourth among the most frequent type of offense (33%).

Figure 30. Frequent Type of Offense



## Juvenile Facilities

Half of the public defenders believe the number of youths held in the detention center has increased over the past few years. However, it was reported that one county stated the number of youths held in detention facilities has decreased, while another county reported no change in the numbers.

## Frequency of Arrests for White Youths v. other Racial/Ethnic Groups

Majority of public defenders report White youths are arrested (57%) and referred (43%) the “same” as other racial and ethnic groups. Twenty-nine percent report White youths are arrested and referred “more frequently” than other racial and ethnic groups.

## Contributing Factors Leading to Arrest

Three out of the seven responses strongly agree the following six categories are contributing factors to youth being arrested/and or referred: "adverse childhood experiences, seriousness of the offense, extensive delinquent history/repeat offender, socioeconomic status, mental health, and substance abuse." Four of the seven somewhat agree the following factors contribute to youth being arrested/referred: "family, peer pressure, seriousness of the offense and extensive delinquent history/repeat offender." It appears "seriousness of the offense" and "extensive delinquent behavior/repeat offender" received the most consistent votes as contributing factors.

## Agency Policy

Two respondents report they have a policy, the remaining four respondents report they do not have a policy in place when it comes to contact with juveniles.

## Belief of RED in County

Only 14% of the respondents answered "yes" when asked if they believe there are racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. The majority of respondents (43%) reported "no", while another 43% reported "I don't know".