

Intakes Filed with JDRDC by Fairfax County’s SROs

Reporting for 2019-2020 School Year¹

Between August 26, 2019 and March 20, 2020², School Resource Officers (SROs) filed a variety of complaints against 232 youth. Some youth received multiple complaints by SROs, resulting in 242 intakes. The analysis below represents data on these 242 intakes.

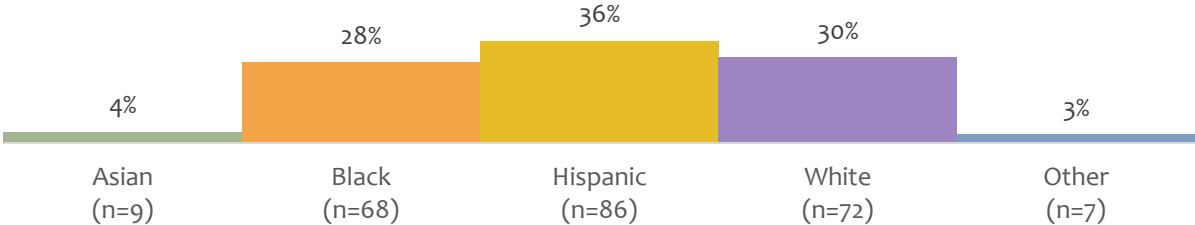
General Demographics

Male students represent 78 percent of all intakes filed by SROs, versus 22 percent of female students. In addition, the average age of students brought to JDRDC by SROs was 15 for this academic year.

78%
Male

In Figure 2 (below), 28 percent of intakes filed by SROs were for Black Youth, 36 percent for Hispanic Youth, and 30 percent for White Youth. Sixty-seven percent of intakes filed were for youth of color.

Figure 1: Intakes by Race & Ethnicity



SROs file complaints for a variety of offenses, ranging from tobacco use to arson. Below are complaints filed 5 or more times during the entire academic year (data represents the number of individual complaints):

- Possession of Marijuana (n=106)
- Assault (n=53)
- Trespassing (n=18)
- Possession of Weapons (n=17)
- Larceny (n=12)
- Assault on a Teacher/Principal (n=9)
- Other Drug Related Offenses (n=9)
- Disorderly Conduct (n=9)
- Vandalism (n=8)
- Verbal or Written Threats (n=7)
- Use/Possession/Purchase of Tobacco (n=5)
- Alcohol Related Offense (n=5)

¹ Data compiled by JDRDC’s Research Unit.
² The in-person 2019-2020 school year was truncated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only complaints filed by SROs while school was in session AND students were on school premises are included in the analysis.

Eligibility for Diversion

Out of 242 intakes filed during the 2019-2020³ academic year, 70 percent were eligible for diversion programming with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC) [see Figure 3]. Youth may not be eligible for diversion for a variety of reasons, including charges prohibited from diversion by the Code of Virginia (16.1-289.1)—such as robbery, or the malicious wounding of a law enforcement officer—or when prohibited by the VA Department of Juvenile Justice, including aggravated assault, or an assault on law enforcement. In addition, any youth currently under court supervision, pending charges, or who has a prior history with the court, is ineligible for diversion programming. Of the intakes eligible for diversion, 9 percent were petitioned to court.

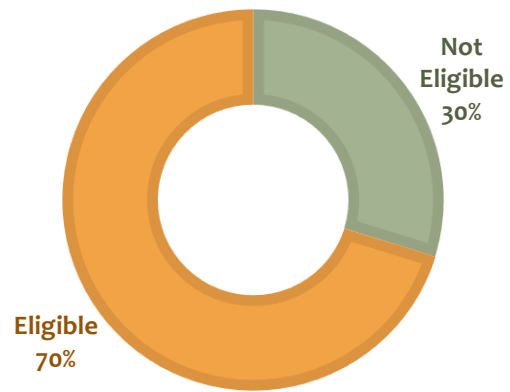
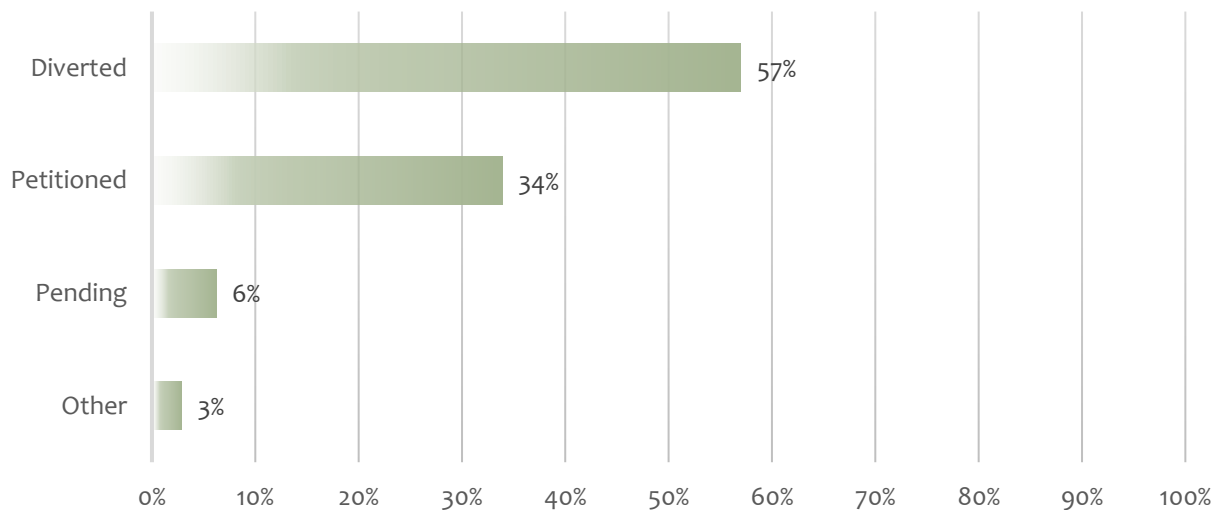


Figure 2: Intakes Eligible for Diversion

Intake Outcomes

Of the 242 intakes filed by SROs during the 2018-2019 school year, Figure 3 (below) indicates 57 percent were diverted, and 34 percent were petitioned to court. Some youth chose not to participate in diversion, resulting in a petition filed and decreasing the overall number of youths diverted. In addition, several complaints are still pending, dismissed or resolved at the time of analysis.

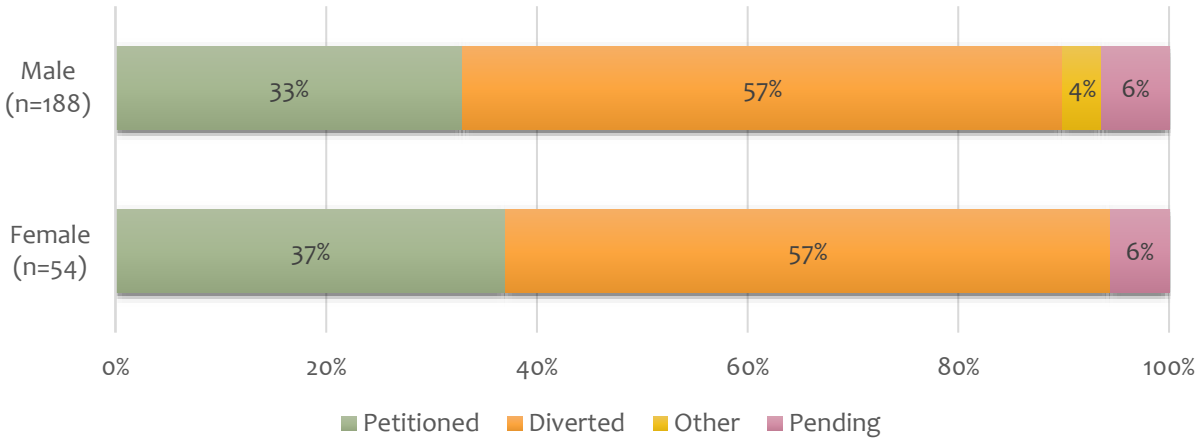
Figure 3: Intake Dispositions



³ The 2019-2020 school year was truncated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only intakes filed by SROs while school was in session are included in the analysis.

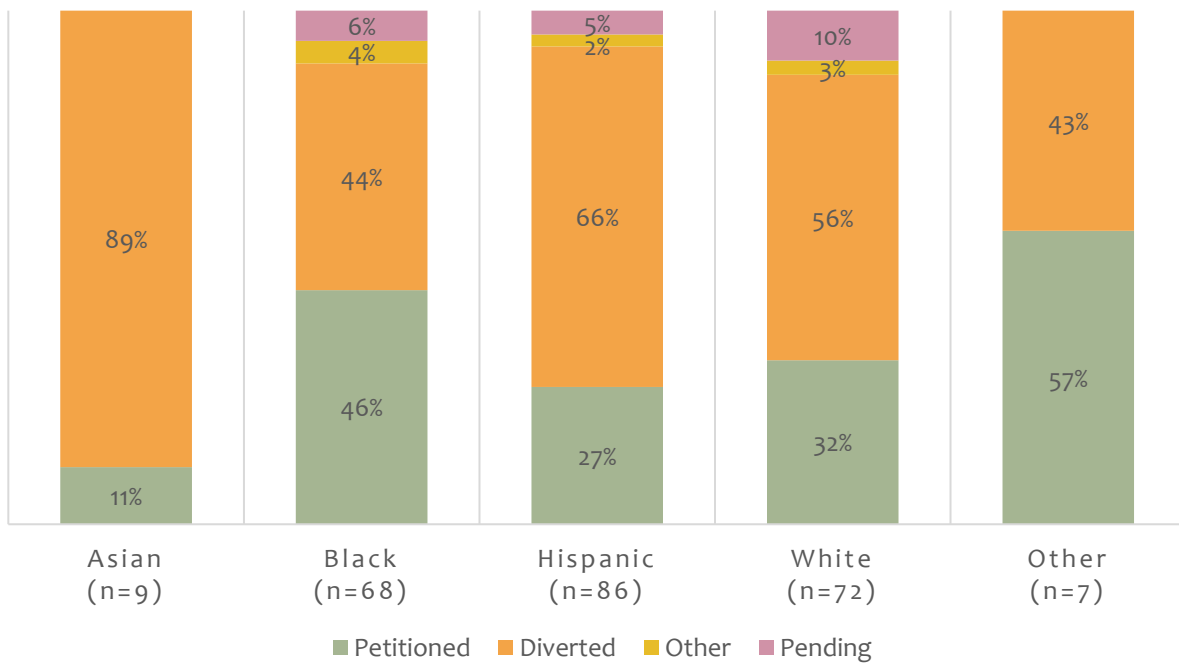
JDRDC diverted equal numbers of males and females this year; with 57 percent of both females and males brought to court by SROs (see Figure 4 below).

Figure 4: Intake Disposition by Gender



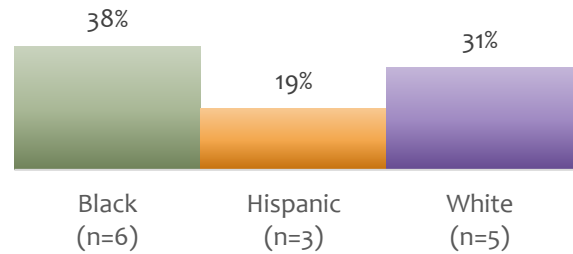
Hispanic youth had the highest diversion rates this year with 66 percent of Hispanic youth diverted compared to 56 percent of white youth and 44 percent of Black youth. Forty-six percent of Black Youth were petitioned to court compared to 32 percent of White Youth, and 27 percent of Hispanic Youth (see Figure 5 below).

Figure 5: Intake Dispositions by Race & Ethnicity



Some youth eligible for diversion are petitioned to court. This occurs for various reasons such as youth not willing to accept responsibility, parent or youth chooses to go to court, or upon further investigation there are aggravating factors allowing the intake officer to send the youth to court after staffing the case with a supervisor. For example, a complaint of assault which is usually eligible for diversion, may be petitioned to court if it resulted in grievous injury. For the 2019-2020 Academic Year, 8 percent (n=14) of intakes were identified as diversion eligible but petitioned to court; 19 percent Hispanic youth, 38 percent Black youth and 31 percent White youth (see Figure 6 to the right).

Figure 6: Diversion Eligible Intakes Petition to Court by Race/Ethnicity



Year-to-Year Diversion Trends

The number of intakes diverted increased between the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Academic Years (AY) for all racial/ethnic groups. Diversion for Black Youth increased 11 percent and White Youth 13 percent. However, diversion rates for Hispanic Youth showed the greatest increase rising from 26 percent during AY 2019 to 66 percent in AY 2020 (see Figure 7 below).

Figure 7: The Percent of Intakes **DIVERTED** for Hispanic Youth **increased** 40 Percent from AY 2019 to AY 2020.

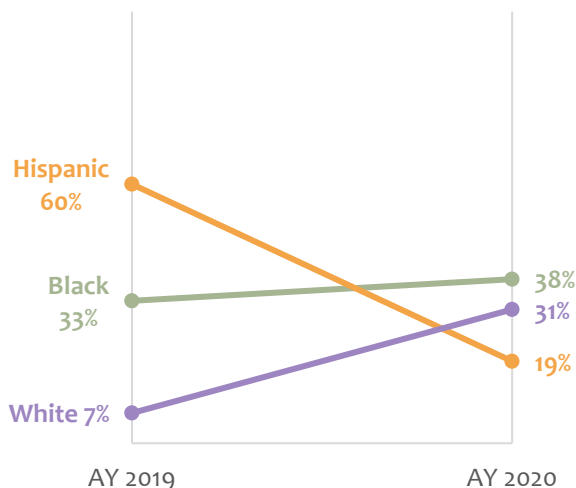
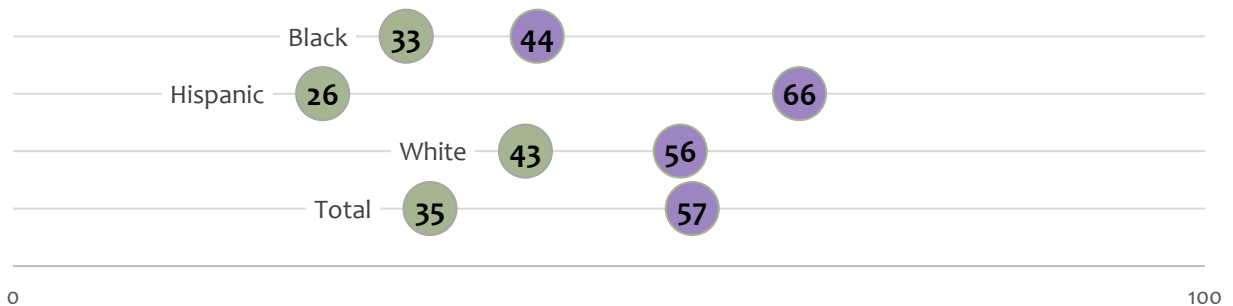


Figure 8: The percent of diversion eligible intakes **petitioned** to court **DECREASED** for **Hispanic Youth**.

When looking at the number of diversion eligible intakes resulting in a petition, the overall number decreased by 1 intake between the 2018-2019 (n=15) and 2019-2020 (n=14) academic years. However, the proportion of Hispanic Youth eligible for diversion and petitioned to court showed the greatest change, decreasing 41 percent from 60 percent in AY 2019 to 19 percent in AY 2020.