

## Race/Ethnic Group Representation

This section examines minority representation in the California Juvenile Justice system based on the data received from the 47 JCPSS certified counties. Arrests, offenses, referrals to probation, detention, petitions filed, type of defense representation, juvenile court dispositions, and wardship placements are discussed.

Population data used throughout this analysis are for individuals aged 0-25. Typically, the analyzed at-risk population for juveniles is 10-17; however, this age group was selected because it ensures inclusion of individuals referred to county probation departments who were under the age of 18 at the time of the offense but were receiving probation services through age 25.

The race/ethnic groups presented in this section include Hispanic, white, Asian/Pacific Islander, black and American Indian. These groupings comport with the federal Disproportionate Minority Confinement Initiative.

The subjectivity of the classification and labeling process must be considered in the analysis of race/ethnic group data. As commonly used, race refers to large populations that share certain similar physical characteristics such as skin color. Because these physical characteristics can vary greatly within groups as well as between groups, determination of race is frequently, by necessity, subjective. Ethnicity refers to cultural heritage and can cross racial lines. For example, the ethnic designation "Hispanic" includes persons of any race. Most commonly, self-identification of race/ethnicity is used in the classification and labeling process.

Statewide juvenile population data is provided in subsequent pages and tables for comparison purposes to comply with the federal "Minority Over-Representation Index" guidelines (see Appendix V). The minority over-representation index computation formula is used throughout this section.

An index value of:

- More than one indicates minority over-representation.
- One indicates proportional representation.
- Less than one indicates minority under-representation.

In 2002, law enforcement agencies reported 191,579 juvenile arrests and county probation departments reported 129,069 referrals. Because no population data were available for juveniles whose race/ethnic group was reported as "other," 5,070 arrests and 4,148 referrals were excluded, leaving 186,509 arrests and 124,921 referrals to be discussed throughout this section.

The offenses presented here were "selected" based on the seriousness of the arrest offense and comparability to the national Uniform Crime Reporting System. The use of these offenses is intended to provide a valid and comparable measure of crimes and the juvenile justice process. The felony offenses are homicide (includes non-vehicular manslaughter), forcible rape,

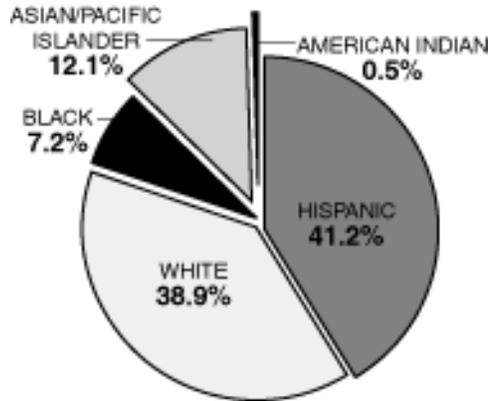
**More** 

robbery, assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and drug violations (includes narcotics, marijuana, dangerous drugs, and other drug violations). The misdemeanor offenses are assault and battery, petty theft, vandalism, disturbing the peace, alcohol-related offenses (includes drunk and liquor laws), and drug violations (includes marijuana and other drugs). The status offenses are curfew violations, truancy, running away, and incorrigibility.

Note: Comparisons between this and previous sections of the report should not be done. The number of juveniles whose race/ethnic group was reported as "other" has been excluded because no population data were available. Therefore, the base number used in this section is less than the base number used in previous sections.

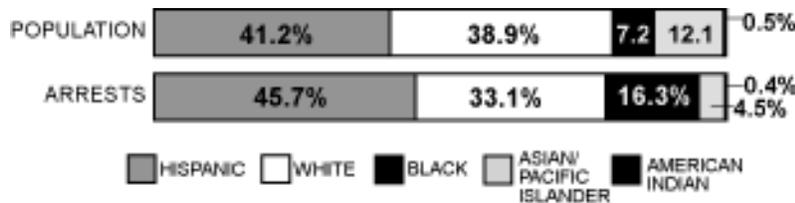
# Population

## Juvenile Population, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Table 12.

## Arrests, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 1 and 12.

Of the 13,930,853 people in California aged 0-25 in 2002:

- 41.2 percent were Hispanic.
- 38.9 percent were white.
- 7.2 percent were black.
- 12.1 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander.
- 0.5 percent were American Indian.

### Arrests

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population:

- Hispanics were arrested 1.1 times more (45.7 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were arrested 0.9 times less (33.1 vs. 38.9 percent)
- Blacks were arrested 2.3 times more (16.3 vs 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were arrested 0.4 time less (4.5 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were arrested 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

**Hispanic and white juveniles combined accounted for more than three-fourths of all reported juvenile arrests.**

### Level of Arrest

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of those arrested for a felony offense:

- Whites were arrested 0.7 times less (27.6 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were arrested 3.1 times more (22.3 vs. 7.2 percent).
- American Indians were arrested 0.6 times less (0.3 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those arrested for a misdemeanor offense:

- Whites were arrested 0.9 times less (36.4 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were arrested 2.0 times more (14.7 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were arrested 0.4 times less (4.6 vs. 12.1 percent).

Of those arrested for a status offense:

- Hispanics were arrested 1.3 times more (53.8 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were arrested 0.3 times less (3.3 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were arrested 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

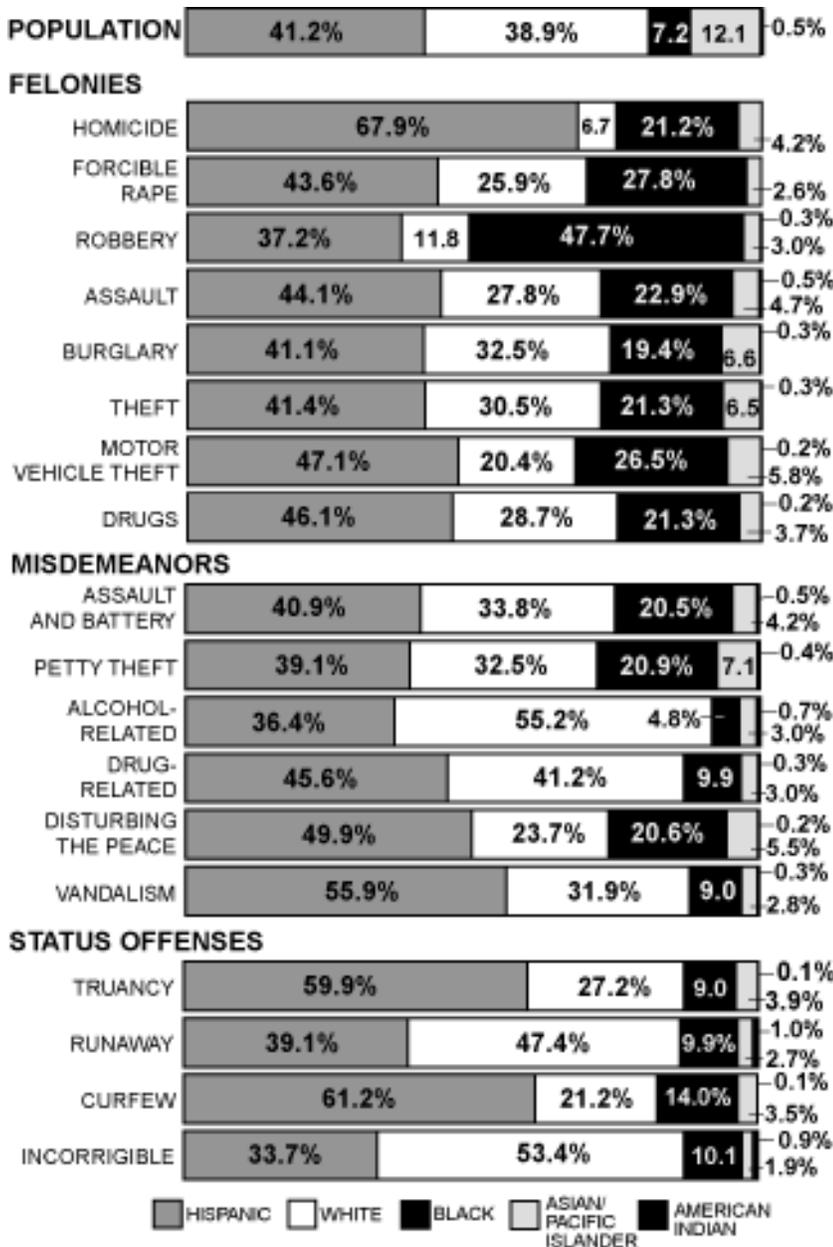
**Level of Arrest, 2002  
By Race/Ethnic Group**



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 1 and 12.

## Selected Arrest

### Arrests, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Groups



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 1 and 12.

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of those arrested for a selected felony offense:

- Hispanics were arrested 1.6 times more for homicide (67.9 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Blacks were arrested 6.6 times more for robbery (47.7 vs. 7.2 percent).
- American Indians were arrested at the same rate for assault (0.5 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those arrested for a selected misdemeanor offense:

- Whites were arrested 1.4 times more for alcohol-related offenses (55.2 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were arrested 2.9 times more for petty theft and disturbing the peace (20.9 vs. 7.2 percent and 20.6 vs. 7.2 percent, respectively).
- American Indians were arrested 1.4 times more for alcohol-related offenses (0.7 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those arrested for a selected status offense:

- Hispanics were arrested 1.5 times more for curfew violations (61.2 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were arrested 1.4 times more for incorrigibility (53.4 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were arrested 1.9 times more for curfew violations (14.0 vs. 7.2 percent).

### Referrals

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population:

- Hispanics were referred 1.1 times more (46.2 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were referred 0.8 times less (30.7 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were referred 2.6 times more (18.5 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were referred 0.3 times less (4.2 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were referred 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

#### Level of Referral

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of those referred for a felony offense:

- Hispanics were referred 1.1 times more (45.5 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Blacks were referred 3.3 times more (23.5 vs. 7.2 percent).
- American Indians were referred 0.6 times less (0.3 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those referred for a misdemeanor offense:

- Hispanics were referred 1.1 times more (45.4 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were referred 0.9 times less (33.6 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were referred 0.3 times less (3.8 vs. 12.1 percent).

Of those referred for a status offense:

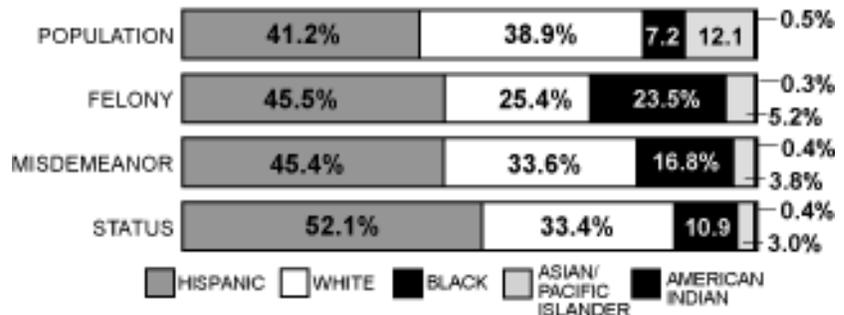
- Hispanics were referred 1.3 times more (52.1 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were referred 0.9 times less (33.4 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were referred 1.5 times more (10.9 vs. 7.2 percent).

#### Referrals, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 6 and 12.

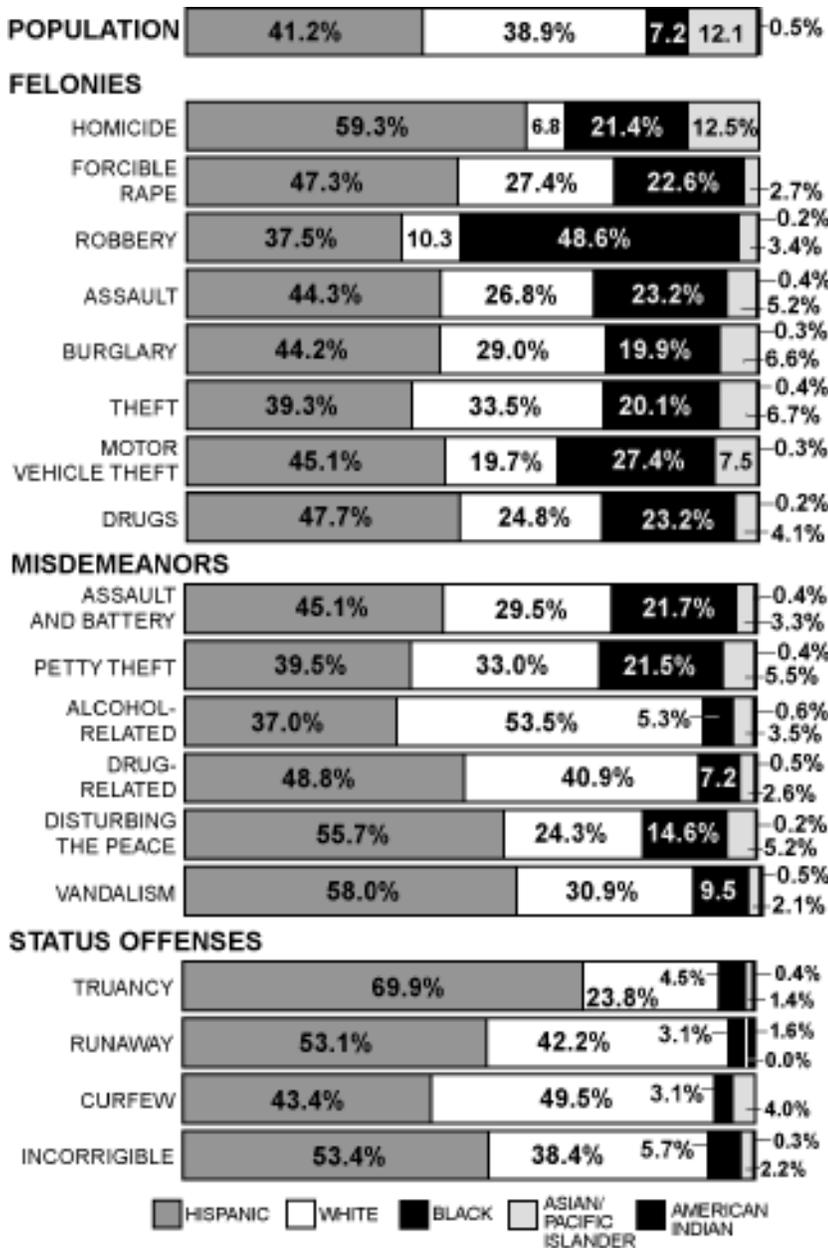
#### Level of Referral, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 7 and 12.

# Selected Referrals

## Selected Referrals, 2002 By Type



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 7 and 12.

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of those referred for a selected felony offense:

- Hispanics were referred for homicide 1.4 times more (59.3 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Blacks were referred for robbery 6.8 times more (48.6 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were referred for homicide at nearly the same rate (12.5 vs. 12.1 percent).

Of those referred for a selected misdemeanor offense:

- Whites were referred for alcohol-related offenses 1.4 times more (53.5 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were referred for assault and battery 3.0 times more (21.7 vs. 7.2 percent).
- American Indians were referred for alcohol-related offenses 1.2 times more (0.6 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those referred for a selected status offense:

- Hispanics were referred for truancy 1.7 times more (69.9 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were referred for curfew violations 1.3 times more (49.5 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were referred for truancy 0.1 times less (1.4 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were referred for truancy 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

## Detentions

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of the offenders receiving detention:

- Hispanics were detained 1.2 times more (47.7 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were detained 0.6 times less (23.0 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were detained 3.4 times more (24.8 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were detained 0.3 times less (4.2 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were detained 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

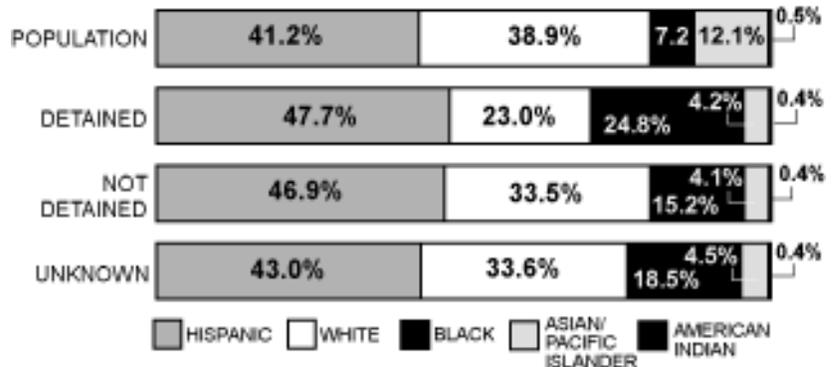
### Informal Dispositions

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of the offenders who received informal probation:

- Hispanics received informal probation 1.1 times more (45.4 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites received informal probation 1.1 times more (41.6 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks received informal probation 1.1 times more (8.0 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders received informal probation 0.3 times less (4.2 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians received informal probation 1.8 times more (0.9 vs. 0.5 percent).

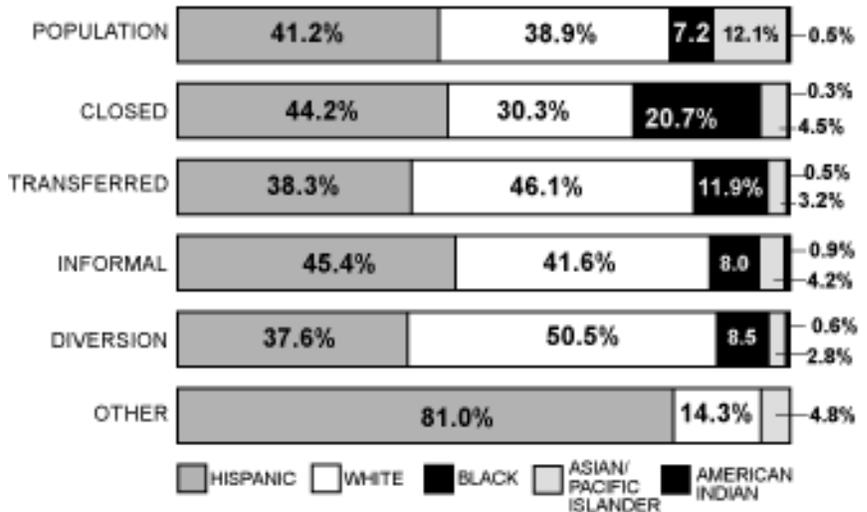
**When compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, whether being “detained” or “not detained,” Hispanic and black juveniles were over-represented.**

### Detentions, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 6 and 12.

### Informal Dispositions, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 6 and 12.

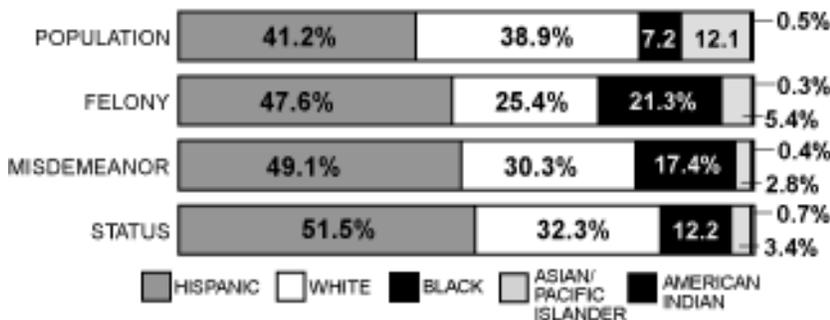
# Petitions

## Petitions, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 8 and 12.

## Petitions, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 9 and 12.

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of those who had petitions filed in juvenile court:

- Hispanics had petitions filed 1.2 times more (48.7 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites had petitions filed 0.7 times less (28.3 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks had petitions filed 2.6 times more (18.5 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders had petitions filed 0.3 times less (4.1 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians had petitions filed 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

### Level of Petition

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of those petitions filed for a felony offense:

- Hispanics had petitions filed 1.2 times more (47.6 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites had petitions filed 0.7 times less (25.4 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks had petitions filed 3.0 times more (21.3 vs. 7.2 percent).

Of those petitions filed for a misdemeanor offense:

- Whites had petitions filed 0.8 times less (30.3 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks had petitions filed 2.4 times more (17.4 vs. 7.2 percent).
- American Indians had petitions filed 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those petitions filed for a status offense:

- Hispanics had petitions filed 1.3 times more (51.5 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders had petitions filed 0.3 times less (3.4 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians had petitions filed 1.4 times more (0.7 vs. 0.5 percent).

## Selected Petitions

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of those petitions filed for a selected felony offense:

- Blacks had petitions filed for robbery 6.2 times more (44.6 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders had petitions filed for homicide 1.2 times more (14.6 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians had petitions filed for theft at the same rate (0.5 vs. 0.5 percent).

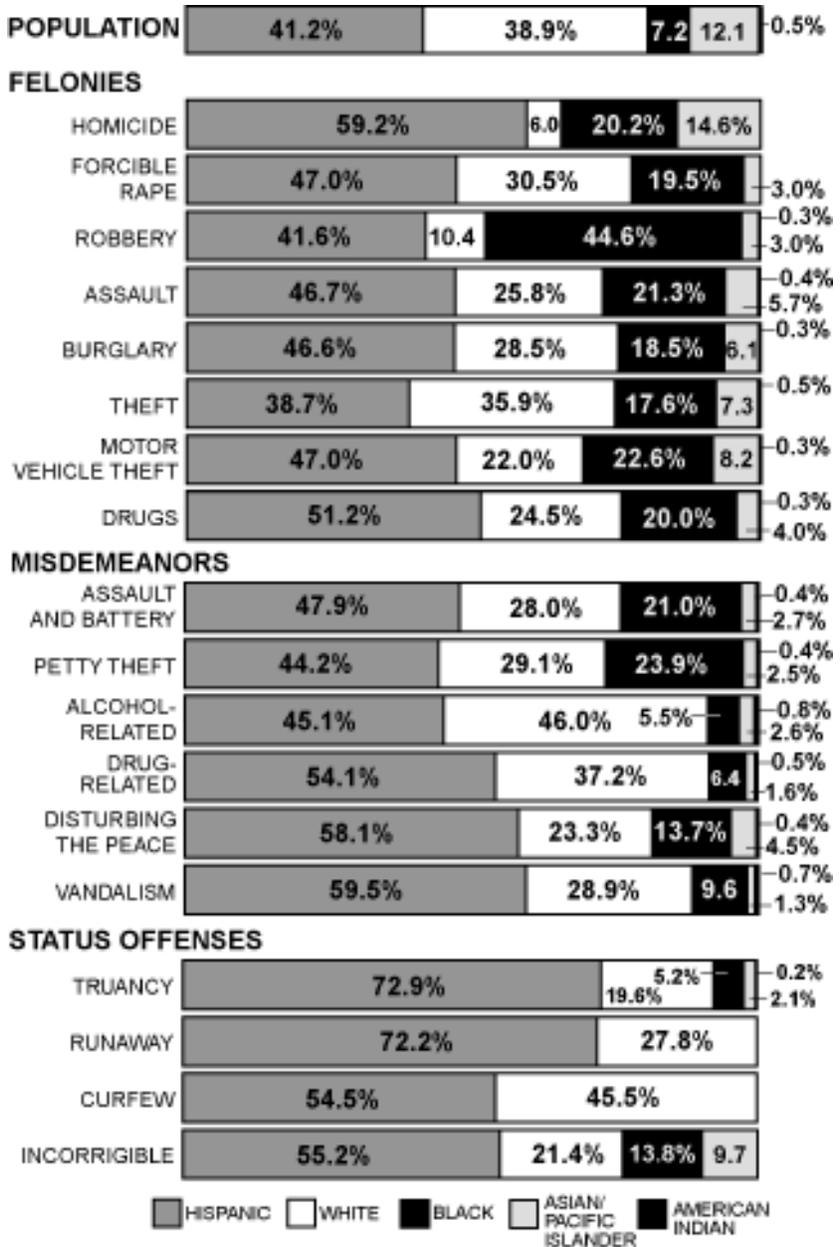
Of those petitions filed for a selected misdemeanor offense:

- Hispanics had petitions filed for vandalism 1.4 times more (59.5 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites had petitions filed for alcohol-related offenses 1.2 times more (46.0 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks had petitions filed for petty theft 3.3 times more (23.9 vs. 7.2 percent).
- American Indians had petitions filed for alcohol-related offenses 1.6 times more (0.8 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those petitions filed for a selected status offense:

- Hispanics had petitions filed for truancy 1.8 times more (72.9 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites had petitions filed for curfew violations 1.2 times more (45.5 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks had petitions filed for incorrigibility 1.9 times more (13.8 vs. 7.2 percent).

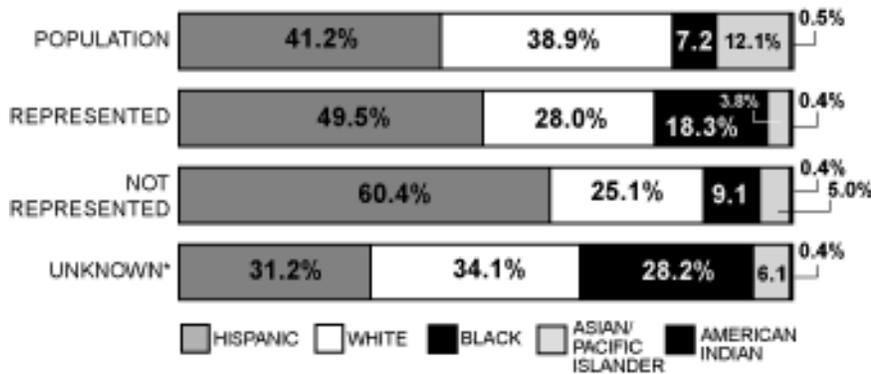
### Selected Petitions, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 9 and 12.

# Defense Representation

## Defense Representation, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



\*Type of defense representation unavailable.  
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
 Source: Tables 8 and 12.

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of those receiving legal counsel:

- Hispanics were represented 1.2 times more (49.5 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were represented 0.7 times less (28.0 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were represented 2.5 times more (18.3 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were represented 0.3 less (3.8 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were represented 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those not receiving legal counsel:

- Hispanics were not represented 1.5 times more (60.4 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were not represented 0.6 times less (25.1 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were not represented 1.3 times more (9.1 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were not represented 0.4 less (5.0 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were not represented 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

**When compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, whether being “represented” or “not represented,” Hispanic and black juveniles were over-represented.**

## Court Dispositions

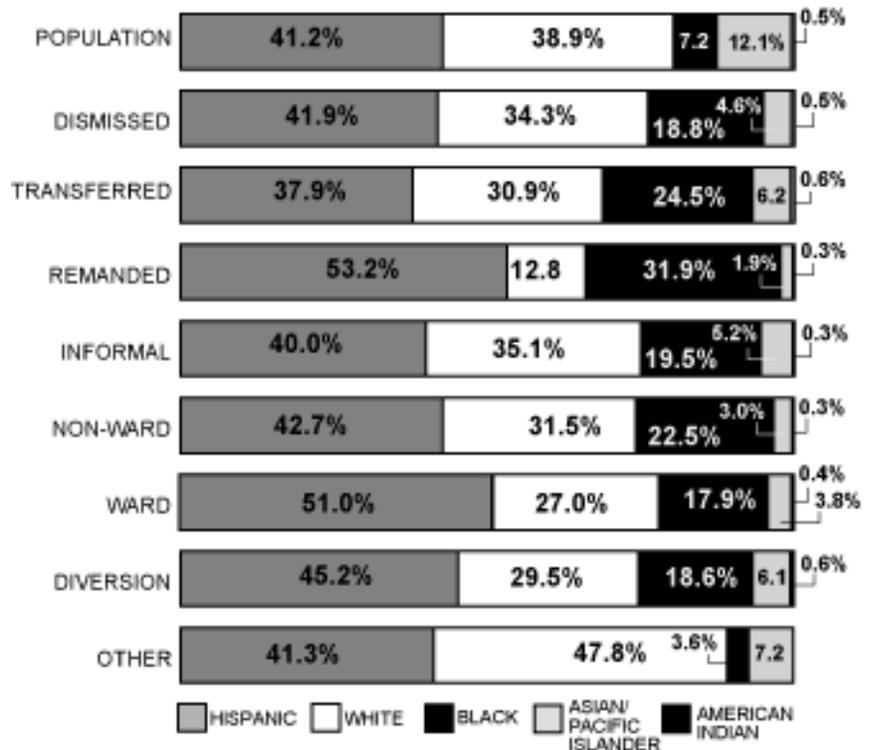
In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of the offenders remanded to adult court:

- Hispanics were remanded 1.3 times more (53.2 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were remanded 0.3 times less (12.8 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were remanded 4.4 times more (31.9 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were remanded 0.2 times less (1.9 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were remanded 0.6 times less (0.3 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those made a ward of the court:

- Hispanics were made a ward of the court 1.2 times more (51.0 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were made a ward of the court 0.7 times less (27.0 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were made a ward of the court 2.5 times more (17.9 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were made a ward of the court 0.3 times less (3.8 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were made a ward of the court 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

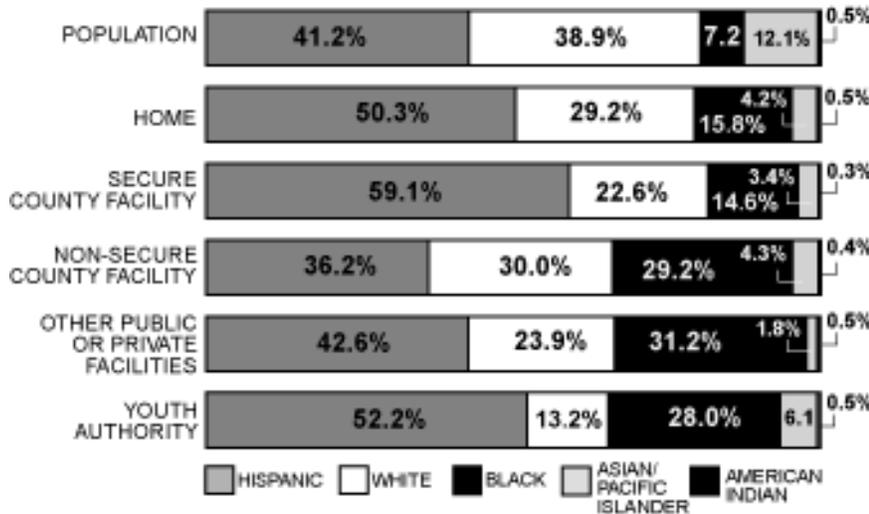
**Court Dispositions, 2002  
By Race/Ethnic Group**



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 8 and 12.

# Wardship Placement

## Wardship Placement, 2002 By Race/Ethnic Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.  
Source: Tables 8 and 12.

In 2002, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, of the offenders sent to secure county facilities:

- Hispanics were sent 1.4 times more (59.1 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were sent 0.6 times less (22.6 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were sent 2.0 times more (14.6 vs. 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were sent 0.3 times less (3.4 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were sent 0.6 times less (0.3 vs. 0.5 percent).

Of those offenders sent to the Youth Authority:

- Hispanics were sent 1.3 times more (52.2 vs. 41.2 percent).
- Whites were sent 0.3 times less (13.2 vs. 38.9 percent).
- Blacks were sent 3.9 times more (28.0 vs 7.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were sent 0.5 times less (6.1 vs. 12.1 percent).
- American Indians were sent at the same rate (0.5 vs. 0.5 percent).

**When compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population, for Youth Authority commitments, Hispanics and blacks were over-represented.**

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