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Race/Ethnic Group Representation

This section examines minority representation in the California Juvenile Justice system based on the data received from the 50 JCPSS reporting counties. Arrests, offenses, referrals to probation, direct files in adult court, detention, petitions filed, fitness hearings, 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, black, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian. Because no population data were available for juveniles whose race/ethnic group was reported as "other," 5,149 arrests and 4,823 referrals were excluded from discussion in this section.

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 used to calculate the "Minority Over-Representation Index" only when comparing the number of juveniles arrested. For all subsequent comparisons, the population of the group being discussed (e.g., referred to probation, tried in juvenile court), is used to calculate the Minority Over-Representation Index. For example, the percentage of juveniles referred to juvenile court is compared to the percentage of juveniles referred to probation for each race/ethnic group. The Minority Over-Representation Index computation formula is used throughout this section (see Appendix 4).

An index value of:

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

To provide perspective throughout this report, it will be helpful for the reader to know the racial and ethnic composition of California's overall juvenile population.

Hispanic	41.7%
White	38.3%
Black	7.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	12.3%
American Indian	0.5%

Source: Table 17.
 Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

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

The age groupings used throughout this report represent the most active age groups for the area being discussed.

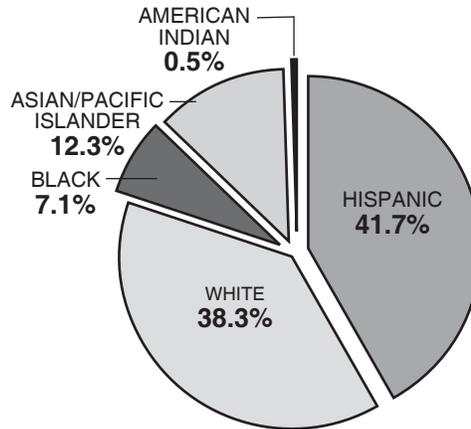
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Population

Of the 14,186,334 people in California aged 0-25 in 2003:

- 41.7 percent were Hispanic.
- 38.3 percent were white.
- 7.1 percent were black.
- 12.3 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander.
- 0.5 percent were American Indian.

**Juvenile Population, 2003
By Race/Ethnic Group**

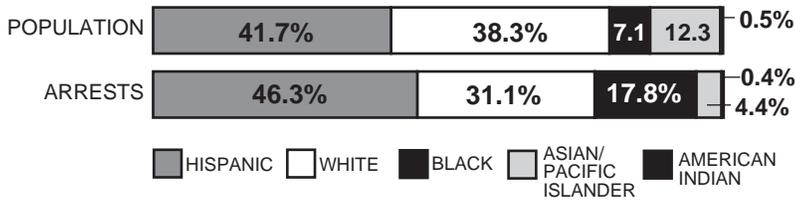


Source: Table 17.

Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Arrests

Arrests, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Tables 1 and 17.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population:

- Hispanics were arrested 1.1 times more (46.3 vs. 41.7 percent).
- Whites were arrested 0.8 times less (31.1 vs. 38.3 percent)
- Blacks were arrested 2.5 times more (17.8 vs 7.1 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were arrested 0.4 times less (4.4 vs. 12.3 percent).
- American Indians were arrested 0.8 times less (0.4 vs. 0.5 percent).

Note: Percentages cannot be calculated for the "other" category because there were no "other" population data.

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Level of Arrest

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of arrestees, of those arrested for a felony offense:

- Whites were arrested 0.9 times less (26.9 vs. 31.1 percent).
- Blacks were arrested 1.3 times more (23.0 vs. 17.8 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were arrested 1.1 times more (4.8 vs. 4.4 percent).

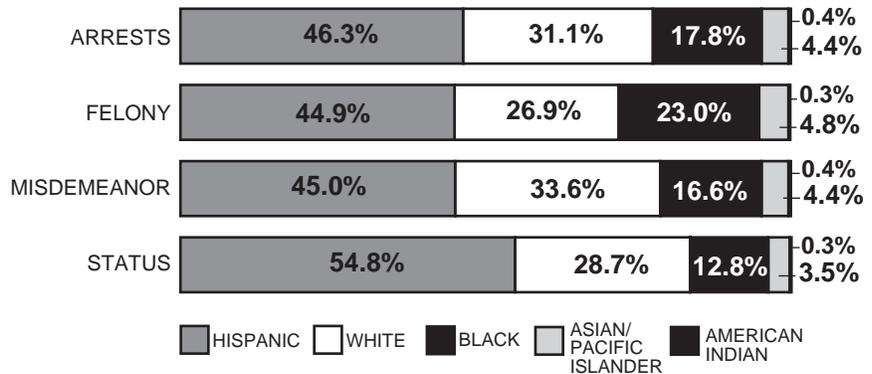
Of those arrested for a misdemeanor offense:

- Whites were arrested 1.1 times more (33.6 vs. 31.1 percent).
- Blacks were arrested 0.9 times less (16.6 vs. 17.8 percent).

Of those arrested for a status offense:

- Hispanics were arrested 1.2 times more (54.8 vs. 46.3 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were arrested 0.8 times less (3.5 vs. 4.4 percent).

Level of Arrest, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



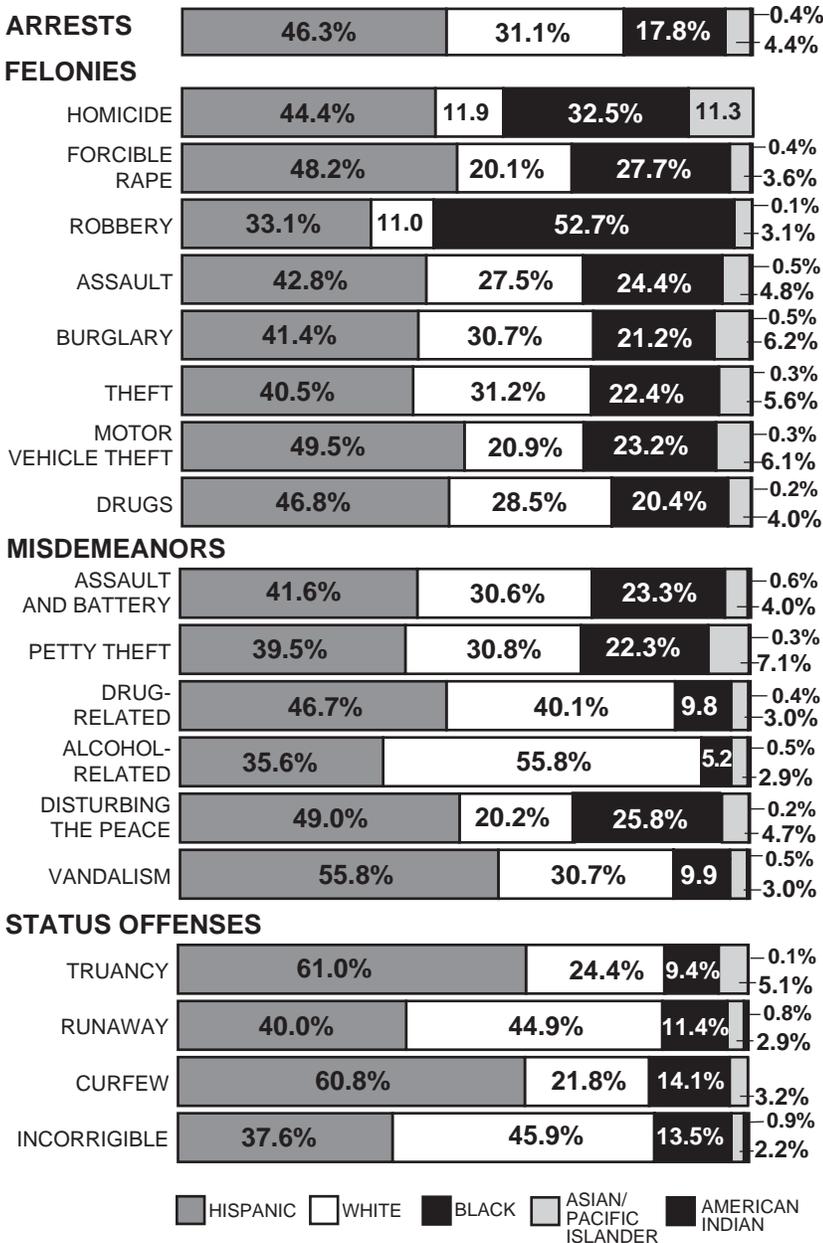
Source: Table 1.

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

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of arrestees, of those arrested for a misdemeanor offense, whites were over-represented and blacks were under-represented.

Selected Arrest

Arrests, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Groups



Source: Table 1.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of arrestees, of those arrested for a selected felony offense:

- Blacks were arrested 3.0 times more for robbery (52.7 vs. 17.8 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were arrested 2.6 times more for homicide (11.3 vs. 4.4 percent).
- American Indians were arrested 1.4 times more for assault and burglary (0.5 vs. 0.4 percent for both).

Of those arrested for a selected misdemeanor offense:

- Hispanics were arrested 1.2 times more for vandalism (55.8 vs. 46.3 percent).
- Whites were arrested 1.8 times more for alcohol-related offenses (55.8 vs. 31.1 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were arrested 1.6 times more for petty theft (7.1 vs. 4.4 percent).

Of those arrested for a selected status offense:

- Whites were arrested 1.5 times more for running away (44.9 vs. 31.1 percent).
- American Indians were arrested 2.3 times more for incorrigibility (0.9 vs. 0.4 percent).

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Referrals

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of arrestees:

- Hispanics and whites were referred in close proportion (44.6 vs. 46.3 percent and 31.1 vs. 31.1 percent, respectively).
- Blacks were referred 1.1 times more (19.9 vs. 17.8 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were referred 0.9 times less (3.8 vs. 4.4 percent).
- American Indians were referred 1.5 times more (0.6 vs. 0.4 percent).

Level of Referral

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of referrals, of those referred for a felony offense:

- Whites were referred 0.9 times less (26.6 vs. 31.1 percent).
- Blacks and Asian/Pacific Islanders were referred 1.2 times more (24.8 vs. 19.9 percent and 4.5 vs. 3.8 percent, respectively).

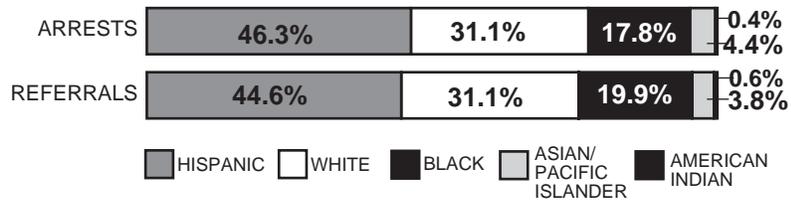
Of those referred for a misdemeanor offense:

- Whites were referred 1.1 times more (33.8 vs. 31.1 percent).
- Blacks and Asian/Pacific Islanders were referred 0.9 times less (17.1 vs. 19.9 percent and 3.4 vs. 3.8 percent, respectively).

Of those referred for a status offense:

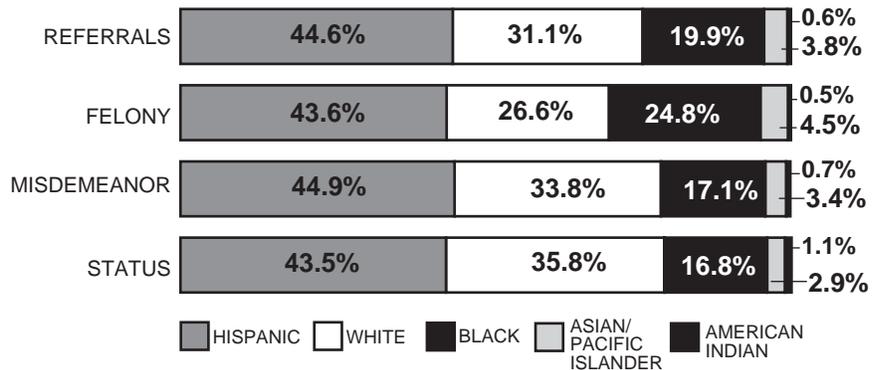
- Whites were referred 1.2 times more (35.8 vs. 31.1 percent).
- American Indians were referred 1.8 times more (1.1 vs. 0.6 percent).

Referrals, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Tables 1 and 6.

Level of Referral, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group

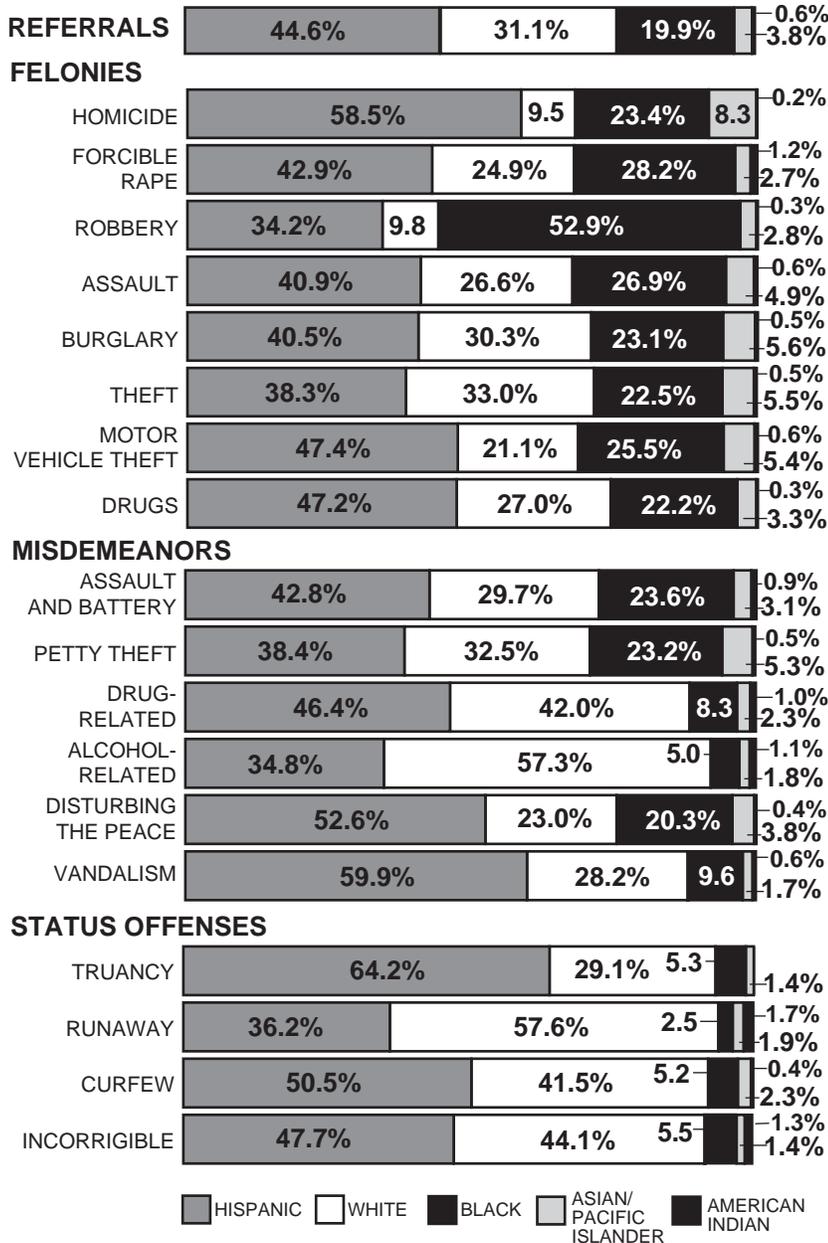


Source: Tables 6 and 7.

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

Selected Referrals

Selected Referrals, 2003 By Type



Source: Tables 6 and 7.

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

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of referrals, of those referred for a selected felony offense:

- Blacks were referred 2.7 times more for robbery (52.9 vs. 19.9 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were referred 2.2 times more for homicide (8.3 vs. 3.8 percent).
- American Indians were referred 2.0 times more for forcible rape (1.2 vs. 0.6 percent).

Of those referred for a selected misdemeanor offense:

- Hispanics were referred 1.3 times more for vandalism (59.9 vs. 44.6 percent).
- Whites and American Indians were referred 1.8 times more for alcohol-related offenses (57.3 vs. 31.1 percent and 1.1 vs. 0.6 percent, respectively).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were referred 1.4 times more for petty theft (5.3 vs. 3.8 percent).

Of those referred for a selected status offense:

- Hispanics were referred 1.4 times more for truancy (64.2 vs. 44.6 percent).
- Whites were referred 1.9 times more for running away (57.6 vs. 31.1 percent).
- American Indians were referred 2.8 times more for running away (1.7 vs. 0.6 percent).

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Detentions

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of referrals, of those receiving detention:

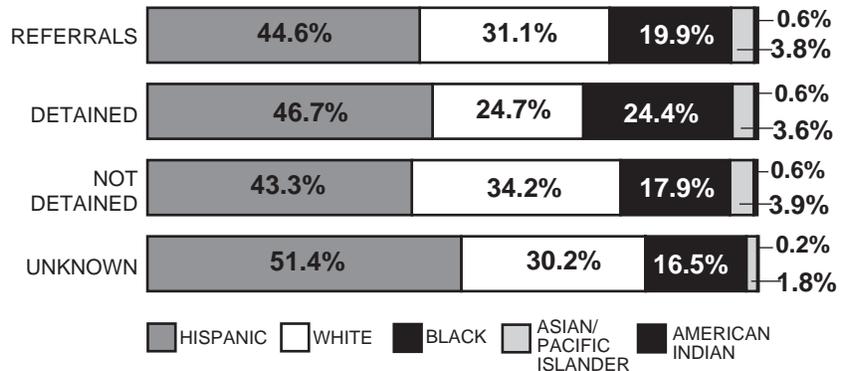
- Hispanics were detained in close proportion (46.7 vs. 44.6 percent).
- Whites were detained 0.8 times less (24.7 vs. 31.1 percent).
- Blacks were detained 1.2 times more (24.4 vs. 19.9 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were detained 0.9 times less (3.6 vs. 3.8 percent).
- American Indians were detained in proportion (0.6 vs. 0.6 percent).

Informal Dispositions

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of referrals, of those who received informal probation:

- Hispanics received informal probation in close proportion (43.1 vs. 44.6 percent).
- Whites received informal probation 1.3 times more (39.2 vs. 31.1 percent).
- Blacks received informal probation 0.6 times less (12.7 vs. 19.9 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders received informal probation 1.1 times more (4.2 vs. 3.8 percent).
- American Indians received informal probation 1.5 times more (0.9 vs. 0.6 percent).

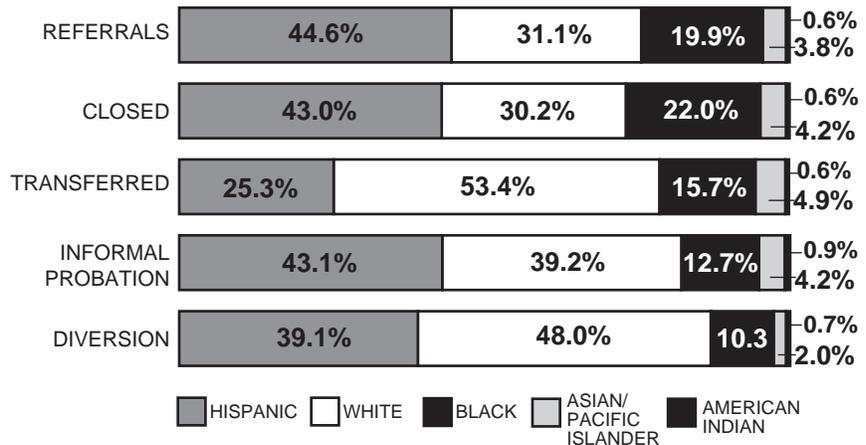
Detentions, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Table 6.

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

Informal Dispositions, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group

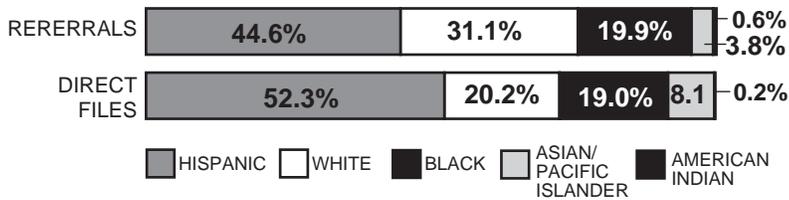


Source: Table 6.

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

Direct Files

Direct Files in Adult Court, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Table 6.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of referrals, of those directly filed in adult court:

- Hispanics were directly filed 1.2 times more (52.3 vs. 44.6 percent).
- Whites were directly filed 0.6 times less (20.2 vs. 31.1 percent).
- Blacks were directly filed at nearly the same rate (19.0 vs. 19.9 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were directly filed 2.1 times more (8.1 vs. 3.8 percent).
- American Indians were directly filed 0.3 times less (0.2 vs. 0.6 percent).

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of referrals, Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders were sent to adult court more than any other race/ethnic group.

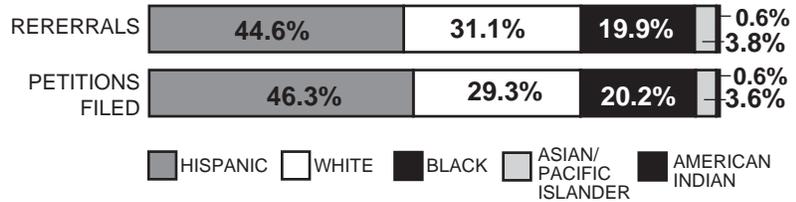
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Petitions

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of referrals, of those who had petitions filed:

- Hispanics, blacks, and American Indians had petitions filed in proportion to their population (46.3 vs. 44.6 percent, 20.2 vs. 19.9 percent, and 0.6 vs. 0.6 percent, respectively).
- Whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders had petitions filed 0.9 times less (29.3 vs. 31.1 and 3.6 vs. 3.8 percent, respectively).

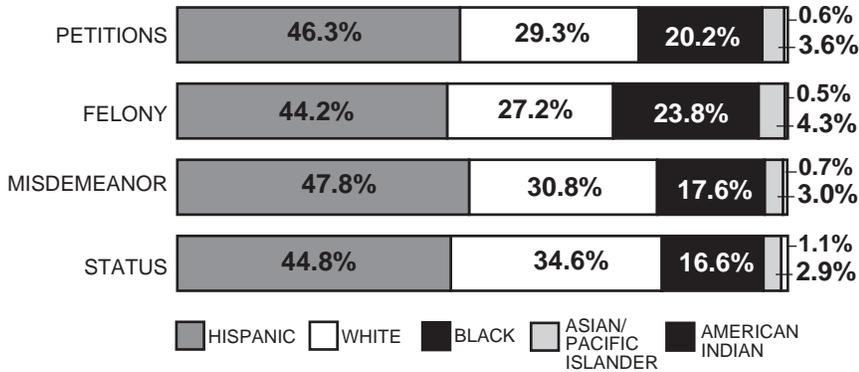
Petitions, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Tables 6 and 8.

Level of Petition

Petitions, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Tables 8 and 9.

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

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of petitions filed, of those who had a petition filed for a felony offense:

- Whites had petitions filed 0.9 times less (27.2 vs. 29.3 percent).
- Blacks and Asian/Pacific Islanders had petitions filed 1.2 times more (23.8 vs. 20.2 percent and 4.3 vs. 3.6 percent, respectively).

Of those petitions filed for a misdemeanor offense:

- Whites had petitions filed 1.1 times more (30.8 vs. 29.3 percent).
- Blacks had petitions filed 0.9 times less (17.6 vs. 20.2 percent).
- American Indians had petitions filed 1.2 times more (0.7 vs. 0.6 percent).

Of those petitions filed for a status offense:

- Whites had petitions filed 1.2 times more (34.6 vs. 29.3 percent).
- Blacks and Asian/Pacific Islanders had petitions filed 0.8 times less (16.6 vs. 20.2 percent and 2.9 vs. 3.6 percent, respectively).
- American Indians had petitions filed 1.8 times more (1.1 vs. 0.6 percent).

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Selected Petitions

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of petitions, of those petitions filed for a selected felony offense:

- Hispanics had petitions filed for homicide 1.4 times more (64.3 vs. 46.3 percent).
- Blacks had petitions filed for robbery 2.5 times more (50.0 vs. 20.2 percent).
- American Indians had petitions filed for forcible rape 3.7 times more (2.2 vs. 0.6 percent).

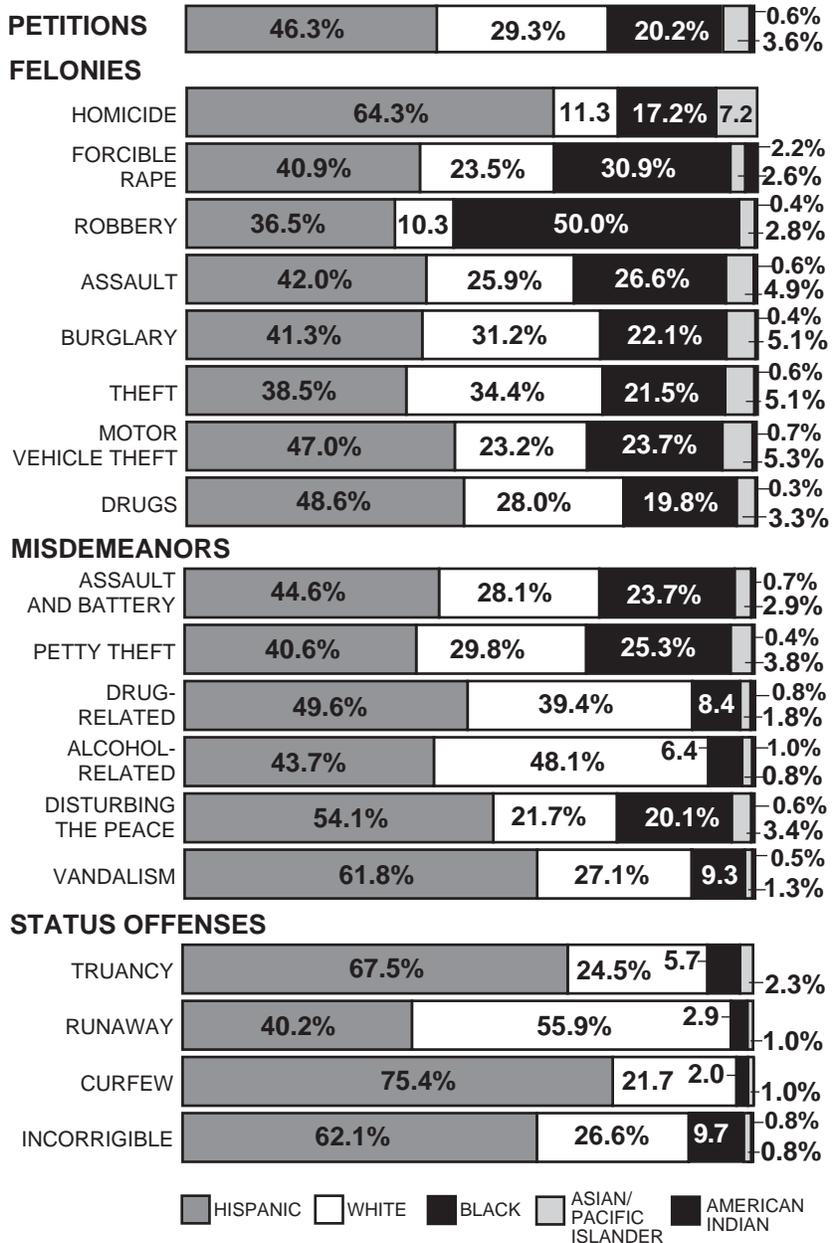
Of those petitions filed for a selected misdemeanor offense:

- Hispanics had petitions filed for vandalism 1.3 times more (61.8 vs. 46.3 percent).
- Whites and American Indians had petitions filed for alcohol-related offenses 1.6 and 1.7 times more (48.1 vs. 29.3 percent and 1.0 vs. 0.6 percent, respectively).

Of those petitions filed for a selected status offense:

- Hispanics had petitions filed for curfew violations 1.6 times more (75.4 vs. 46.3 percent).
- Whites had petitions filed for running away 1.9 times more (55.9 vs. 29.3 percent).
- American Indians had petitions filed for incorrigibility 1.3 times more (9.7 vs. 0.6 percent).

Selected Petitions, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group

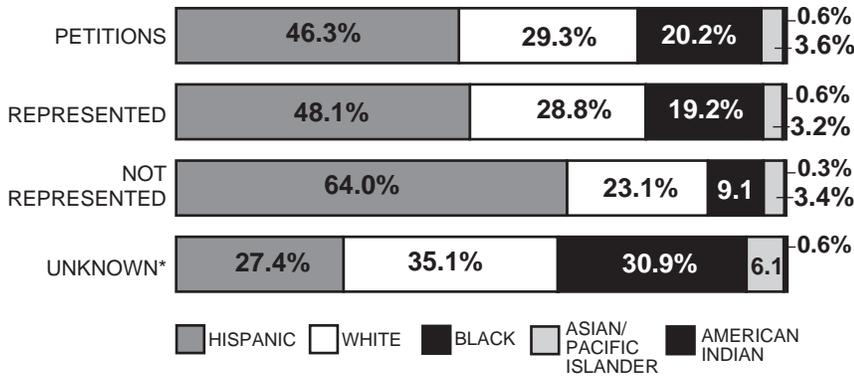


Source: Tables 8 and 9.

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

Defense Representation

Defense Representation, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Table 8.

*Type of defense representation unavailable.

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

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of petitions filed, of those receiving legal counsel:

- Hispanics, whites, blacks, and American Indians were represented in close proportion (48.1 vs. 46.3 percent, 28.8 vs. 29.3 percent, 19.2 vs. 20.2 percent, and 0.6 vs. 0.6 percent, respectively).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were represented 0.9 times less (3.2 vs. 3.6 percent).

Of those not receiving legal counsel:

- Hispanics were not represented 1.4 times more (64.0 vs. 46.3 percent).
- Whites were not represented 0.8 times less (23.1 vs. 29.3 percent).
- Blacks were not represented 0.5 times less (9.1 vs. 20.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were not represented 0.9 times less (3.4 vs. 3.6 percent).
- American Indians were not represented 0.5 times less (0.3 vs. 0.6 percent).

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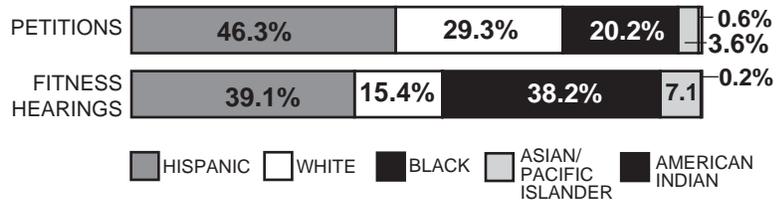
Fitness Hearings

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of petitions filed, of those who had a fitness hearing:

- Hispanics were subject to a fitness hearing 0.8 times less (39.1 vs. 46.3 percent).
- Whites were subject to a fitness hearing 0.5 times less (15.4 vs. 29.3 percent).
- Blacks were subject to a fitness hearing 1.9 times more (38.2 vs. 20.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were subject to a fitness hearing 2.0 times more (7.1 vs. 3.6 percent).
- American Indians were subject to a fitness hearing 0.3 times less (0.2 vs. 0.6 percent).

Note: See Appendix 7, page 108, for a definition of a fitness hearing.

Fitness Hearings, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group

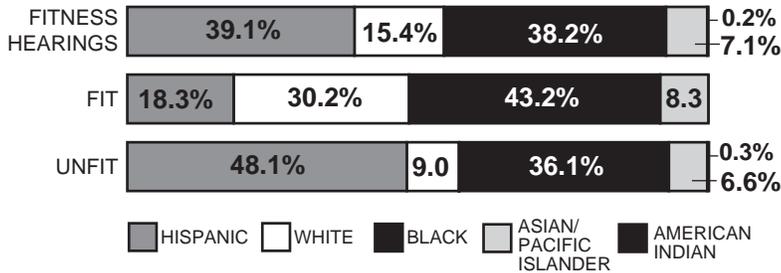


Source: Tables 8 and 13.

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of petitions filed, blacks and Asian/Pacific Islanders were subject to a fitness hearing more than any other race/ethnic group.

Fitness Hearing Outcomes

Fitness Hearing Outcomes, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Table 13.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of petitions filed, of those who were found unfit for juvenile court services:

- Hispanics were unfit 1.2 times more (48.1 vs. 39.1 percent).
- Whites were unfit 0.6 times less (9.0 vs. 15.4 percent).
- Blacks were unfit 0.9 times less (36.1 vs. 38.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were unfit 0.9 times less (6.6 vs. 7.1 percent).
- American Indians were unfit 1.5 times more (0.3 vs. 0.2 percent).

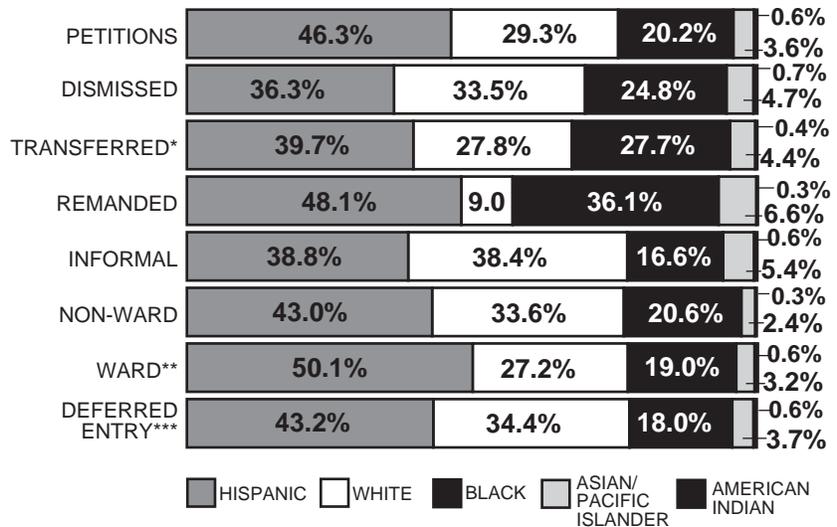
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Court Dispositions

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of petitions filed, of those made a ward of the court:

- Hispanics were made a ward of the court 1.1 times more (50.1 vs. 46.3 percent).
- Whites were made a ward of the court 0.9 times less (27.2 vs. 29.3 percent).
- Blacks were made a ward of the court 0.9 times less (19.0 vs. 20.2 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were made a ward of the court 0.9 times less (3.2 vs. 3.6 percent).
- American Indians were made a ward of the court in proportion to their race/ethnic group population of petitions filed (0.6 vs. 0.6 percent).

Court Dispositions, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Table 8.

*Includes juveniles who were deported.

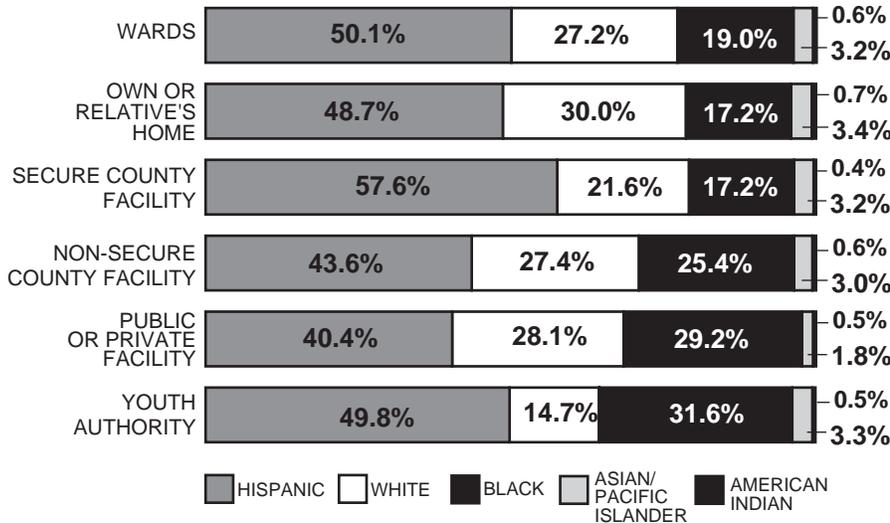
**Includes juveniles sent to the Youth Authority.

***Includes "diversion."

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

Wardship Placement

Wardship Placement, 2003 By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: Table 8.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of wards of the court, of the offenders sent to secure county facilities:

- Hispanics were sent 1.1 times more (57.6 vs. 50.1 percent).
- Whites were sent 0.8 times less (21.6 vs. 27.2 percent).
- Blacks were sent 0.9 times less (17.2 vs. 19.0 percent).
- Asian/Pacific Islanders were sent at the same rate (3.2 vs. 3.2 percent).
- American Indians were sent 0.7 times less (0.4 vs. 0.6 percent).

Of those offenders sent to the Youth Authority:

- Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders were sent at virtually the same rate (49.8 vs. 50.1 percent and 3.3 vs. 3.2 percent, respectively).
- Whites were sent 0.5 times less (14.7 vs. 27.2 percent).
- Blacks were sent 1.7 times more (31.6 vs. 19.0 percent).
- American Indians were sent 0.8 times less (0.5 vs. 0.6 percent).

In 2003, when compared to their statewide race/ethnic group population of wards of the court, Hispanics were over-represented in commitments to secure county facilities while blacks were over-represented in commitments to the Youth Authority.

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