

# DETENTION UTILIZATION STUDY PALM BEACH COUNTY JUNE 2015

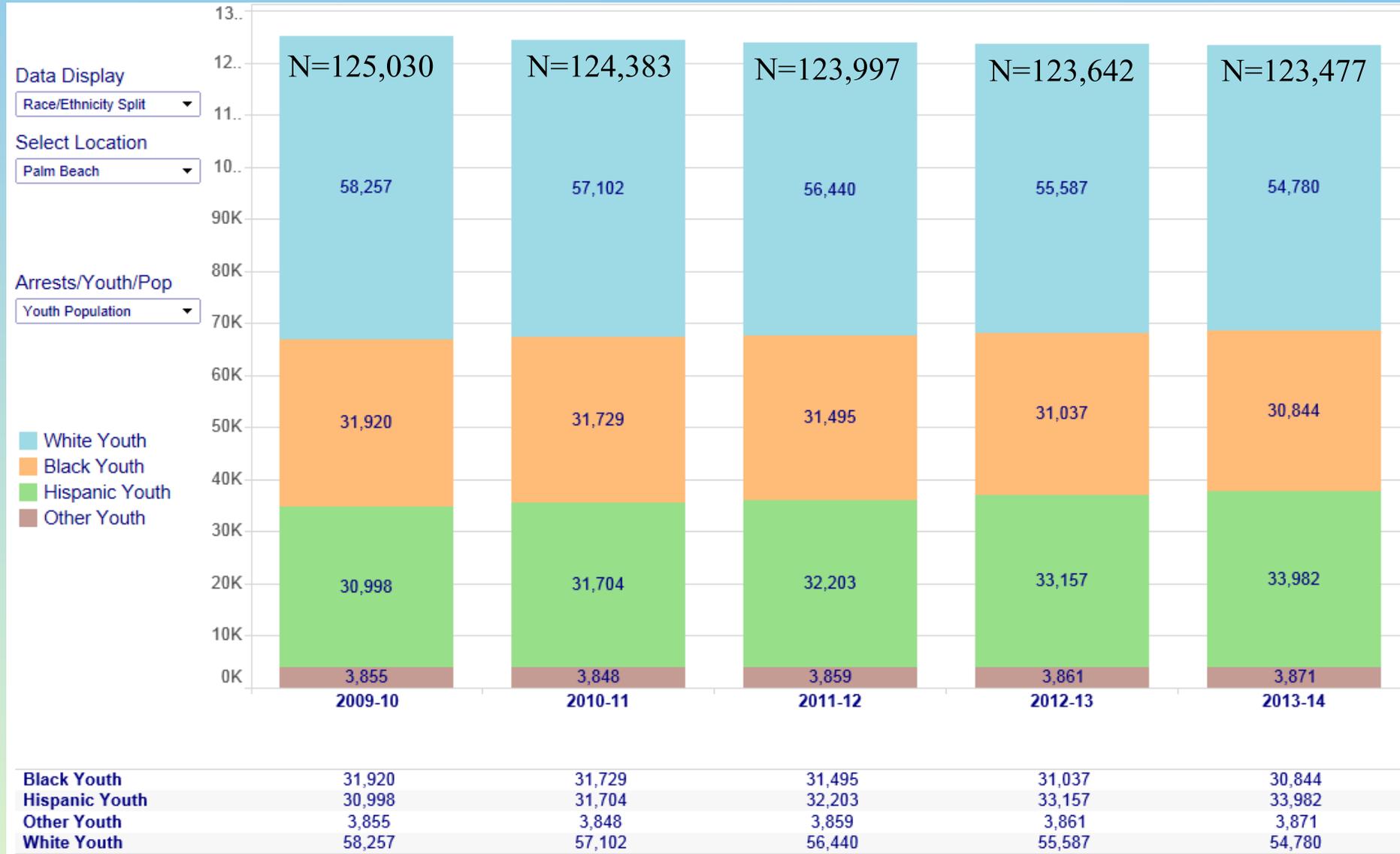
Office of Research and Data Integrity  
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice



Rick Scott, Governor

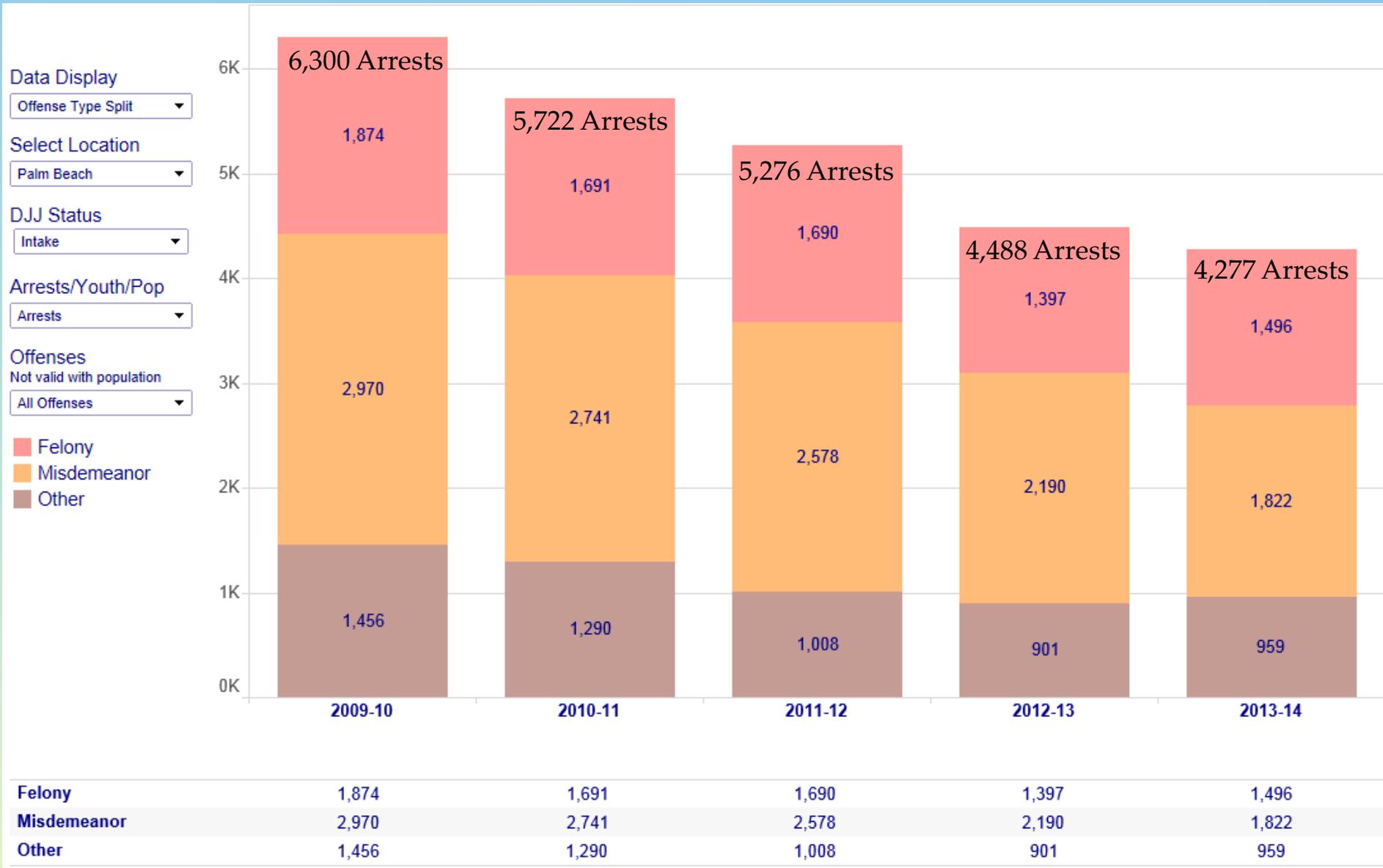
Christina K. Daly, Secretary

The youth population (age 10-17) in Palm Beach County has remained stable over the past 5 fiscal years, from 125,030 in FY2009-2010 to 123,477 in FY2013-2014.



\*\*\*These youth population estimates differ from those reported in the 2011 study due to different methodology. The 2011 study used census data whereas the current study uses EDR data to provide a more accurate estimate on youth population in Florida counties.

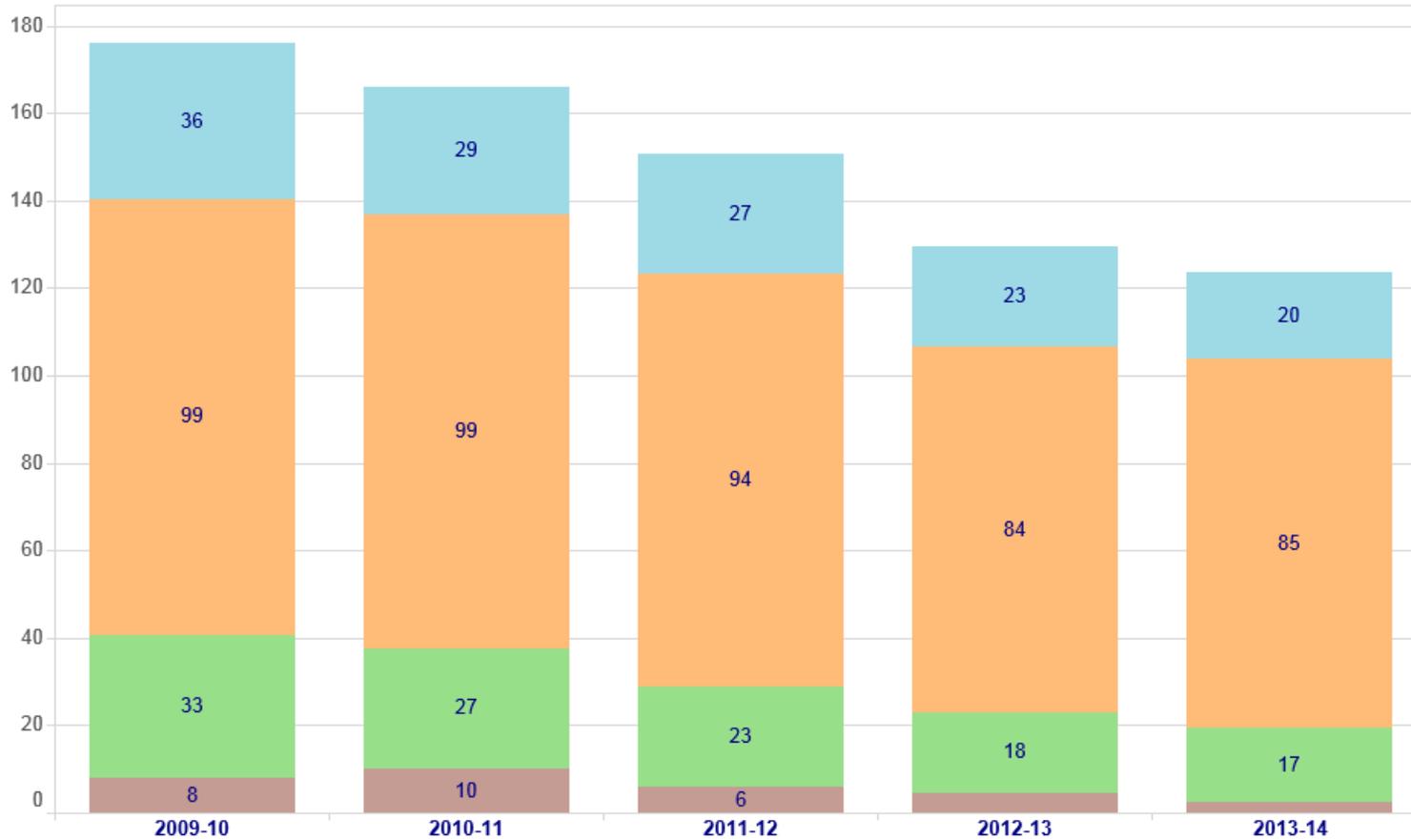
The number of arrests continued to trend downward in Palm Beach County over the past 5 fiscal years. There was a 5% decrease in arrests since last fiscal year.



- Despite overall arrests going down, there was a 7% increase in felony arrests since last fiscal year
- There was a 20% reduction in felony arrests from FY2009-2010 to FY2013-2014.

The arrest rates of all races/ethnicities have decreased over the past 5 fiscal years in Palm Beach County.

**Palm Beach County - All Offenses**  
**Intake - Arrests Per 1,000 Age 10 - 17 - Race/Ethnicity Split**

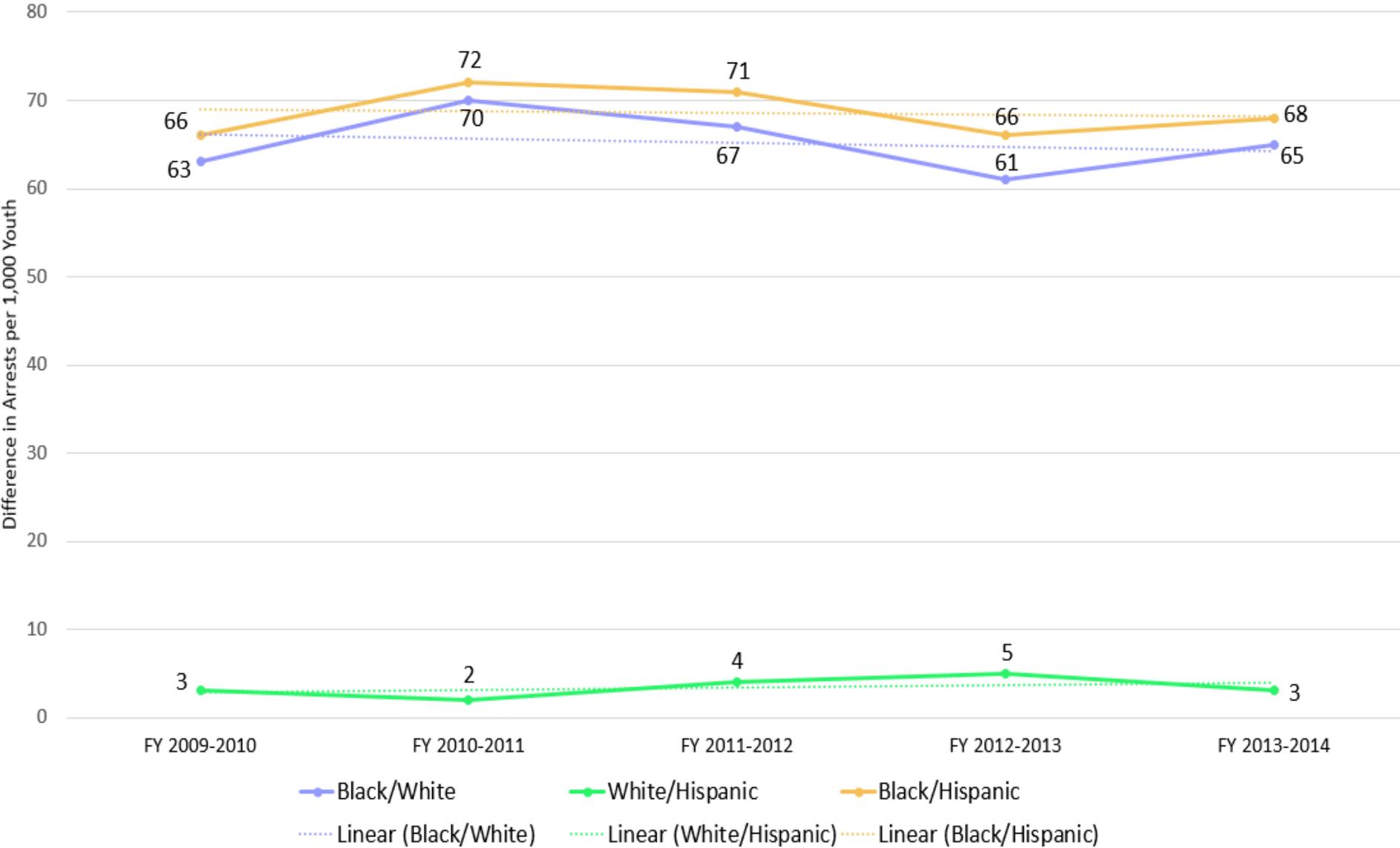


<b>Black Youth</b>	99	99	94	84	85
<b>Hispanic Youth</b>	33	27	23	18	17
<b>Other Youth</b>	8	10	6	5	2
<b>White Youth</b>	36	29	27	23	20

- The arrest rate of Black youth relative to the population decreased by 14 arrests per 1,000 Black youth over the past 5 fiscal years.
- During the same time period, the arrest rate of White youth decreased by 16 arrests per 1,000 White youth
- The arrest rate of Hispanic youth also decreased by 16 arrests per 1,000 Hispanic youth over the past 5 fiscal years

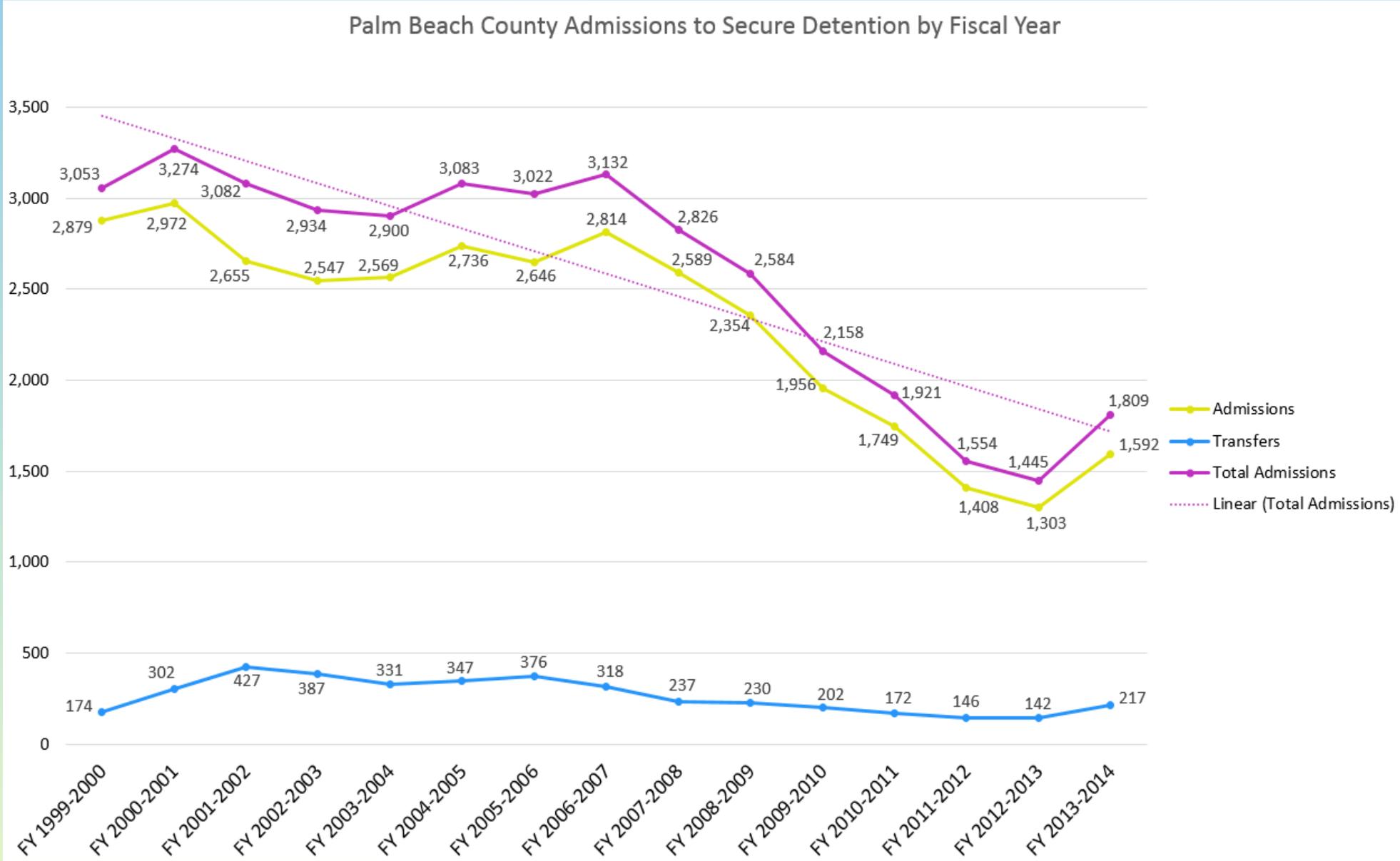
# Annual racial and ethnic disparities in arrest rates over the past 5 years in Palm Beach County.

## Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Arrest to Population Ratios



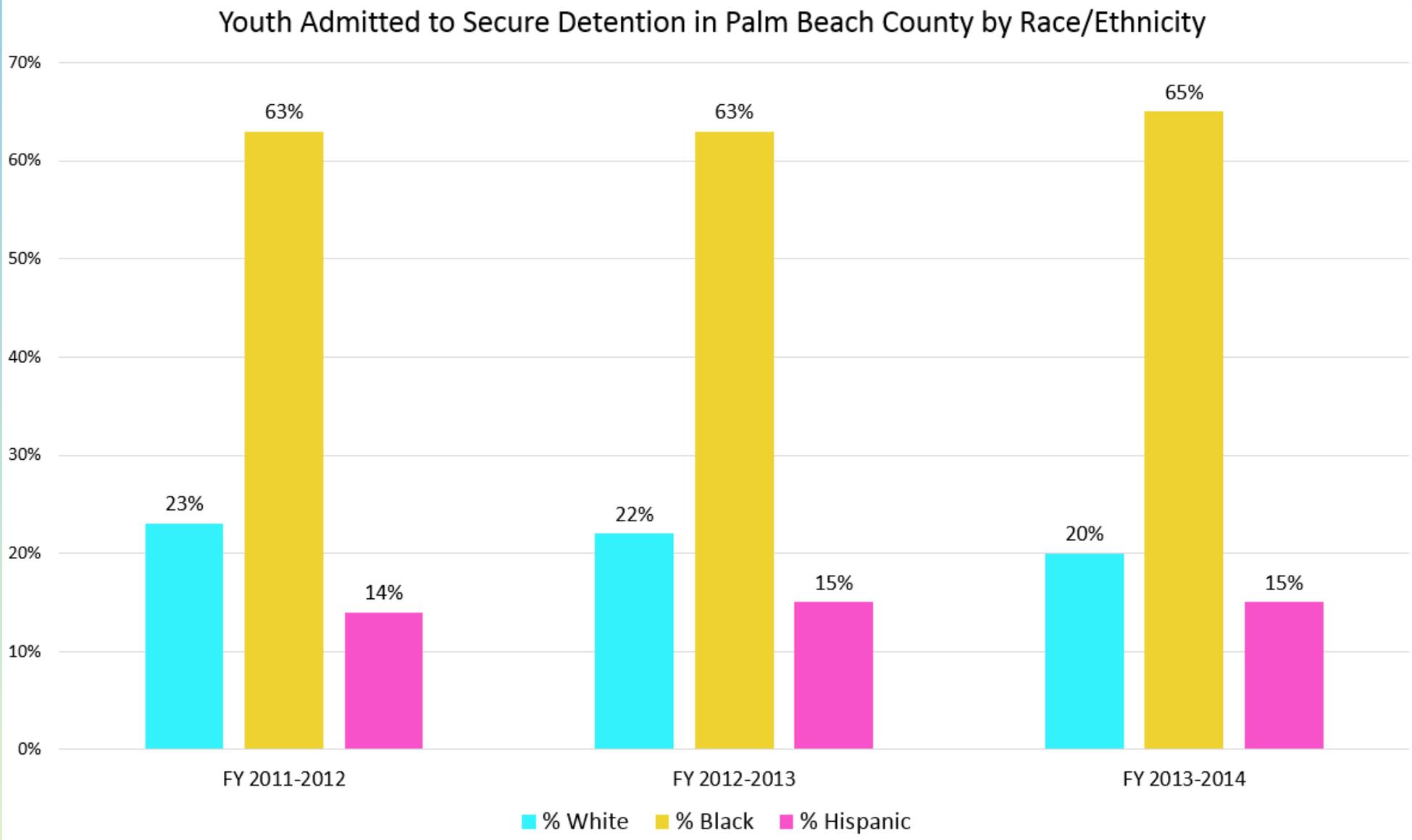
- Disparities in arrest rates between Black youth and Hispanic youth and between White youth and Black youth have been decreasing over the past 5 years
- The disparity in arrest rates between White youth and Hispanic youth has increased over the past 5 years.

Annual admissions to secure detention in Palm Beach County have been on an overall decline over the past 15 fiscal years, with an upward slope in the most recent year.



- Admissions to secure detention increased by 25% since last fiscal year.
- During the same period, felony arrests increased by 7%, despite overall arrests decreasing by 5%

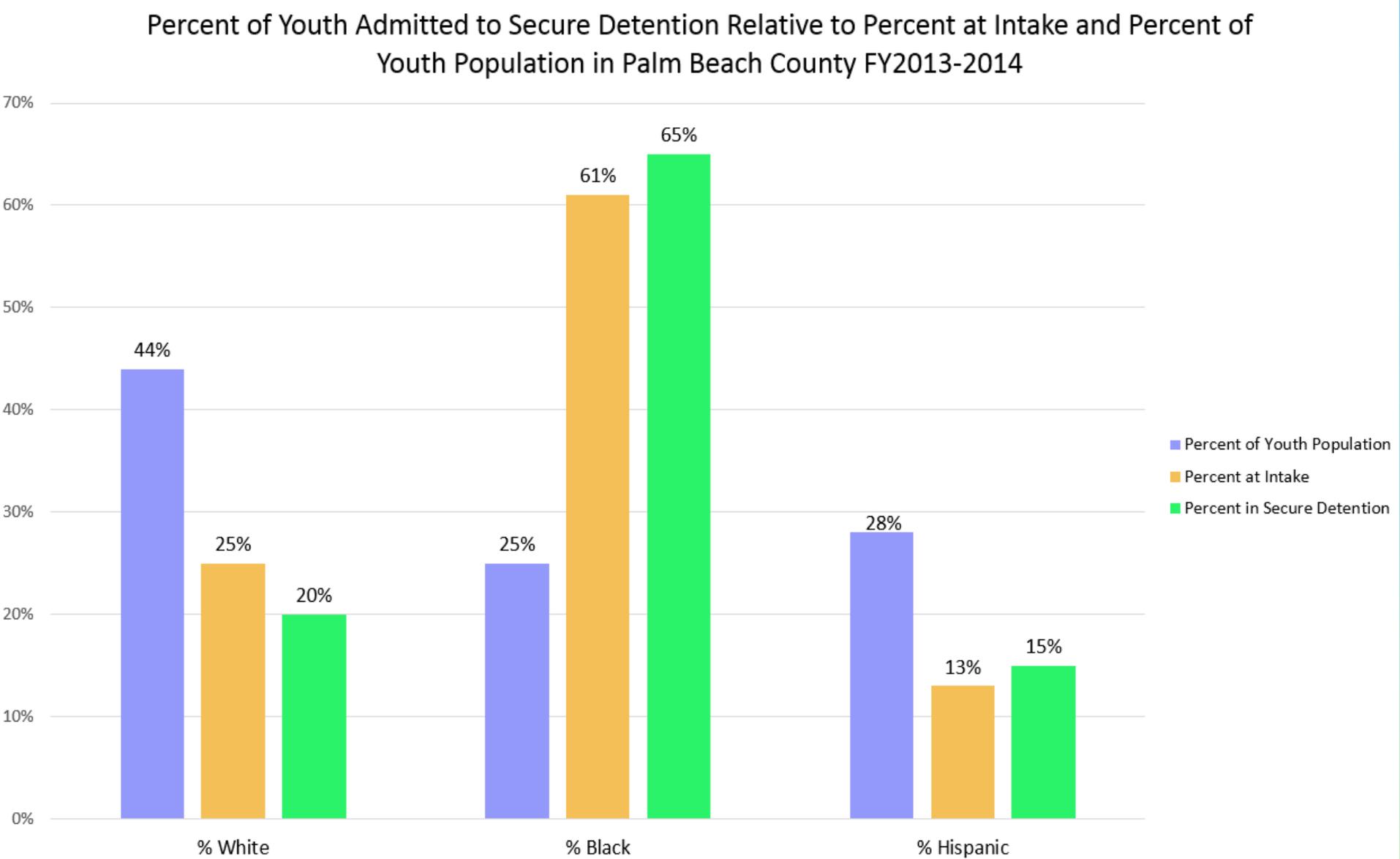
There has been an increase in the percent of Black youth admitted to secure detention in Palm Beach County over the past 3 fiscal years and a decrease in the percent of White youth.



- 65% of youth admitted to secure detention in Palm Beach County in FY2013-14 were Black while only 20% were White.
- There was a 2 percentage point **increase** in percent Black youth admitted to secure detention from the previous fiscal year and a 2 percentage point **decrease** in percent White youth admitted to secure detention.

\*Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding and the fact that “Other” youth were excluded from comparison

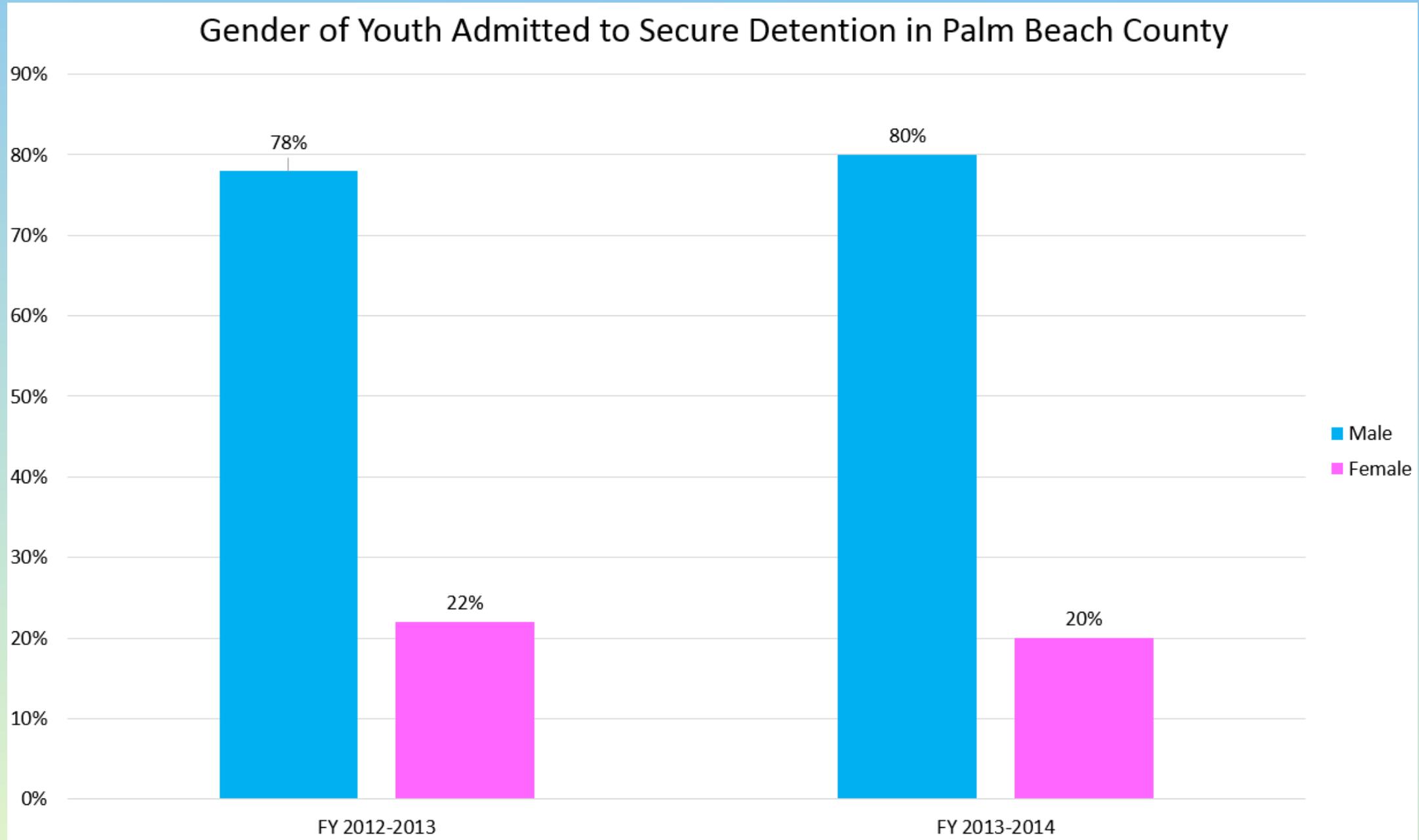
# Sixty-five percent of youth admitted to secure detention in Palm Beach County during fiscal year 2013-2014 were Black



- Black youth are overrepresented in arrests and secure detention admissions relative to the percent of Black youth in the population
- The percent of Black youth admitted to secure detention in FY2013-2014 was 65% while the percent of Black youth arrested was 61% and the percent of Black youth (age 10-17) in the population was only 25%

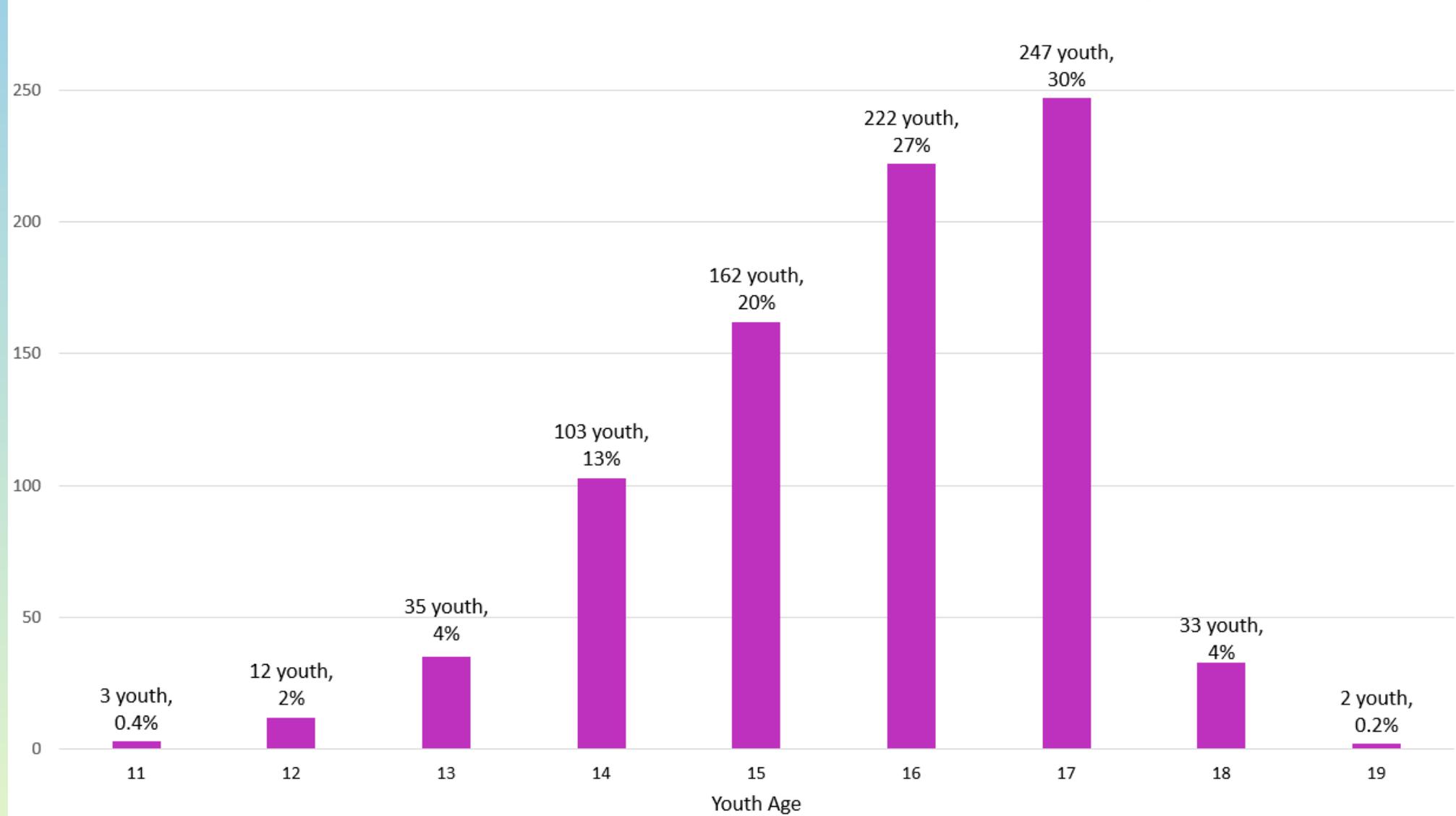
\*Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding and the fact that “Other” youth were excluded from comparison

# Gender of Youth Admitted to Secure Detention in Palm Beach County Over the Past 2 Fiscal Years



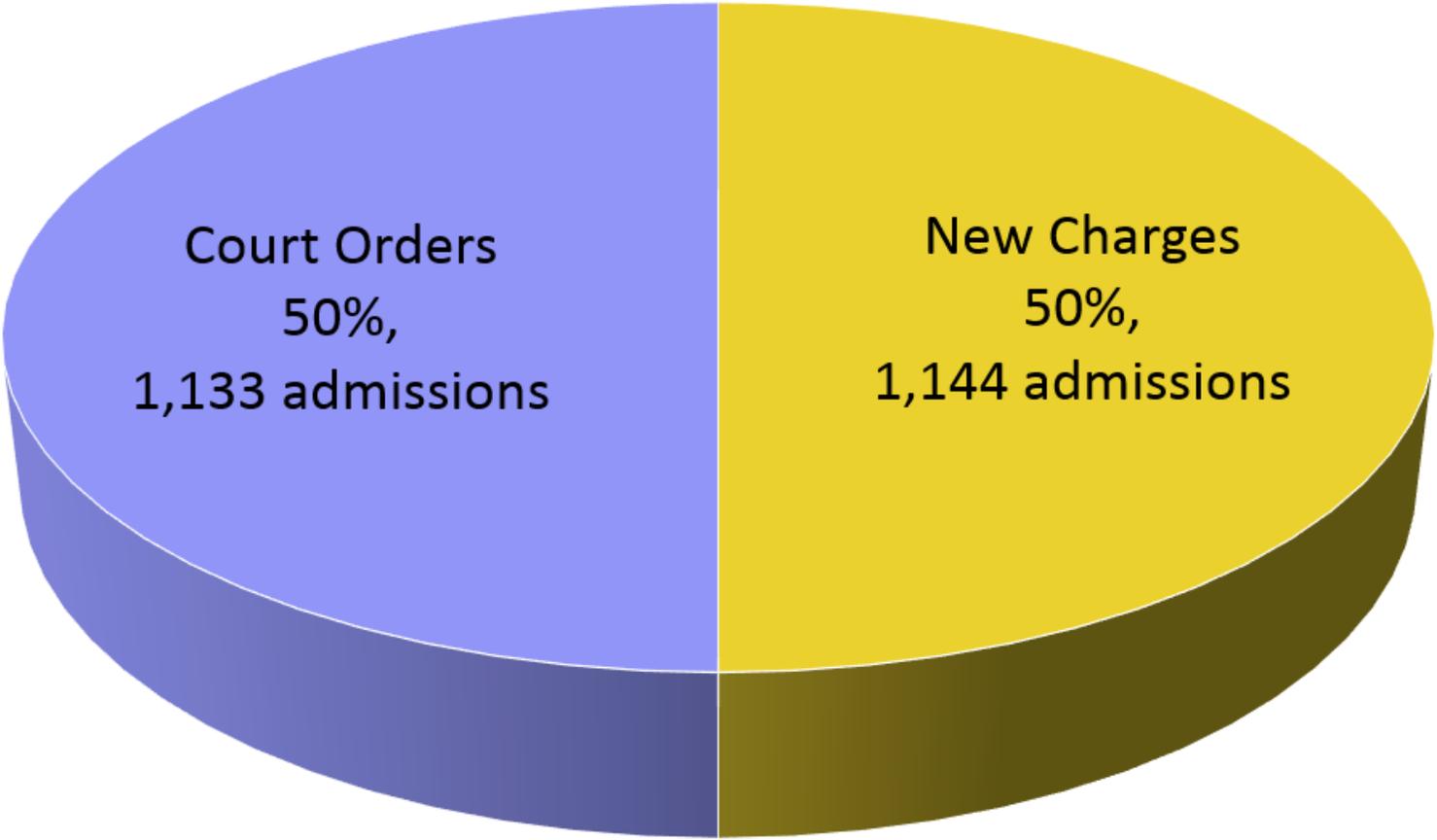
Approximately three quarters (77%) of youth admitted to secure detention in Palm Beach County in fiscal year 2013-2014 were between the ages of 15 and 17.

Youth Admitted to Secure Detention in Palm Beach County by Age at Admission During FY2013-2014



50% of admissions to secure detention in Palm Beach County were related to new charges while half of admissions to secure detention were related to court orders.

Youth Admitted to Secure Detention in Palm Beach County by Reason for Detention,  
January 2013-June 2014 (N\*=2,277)

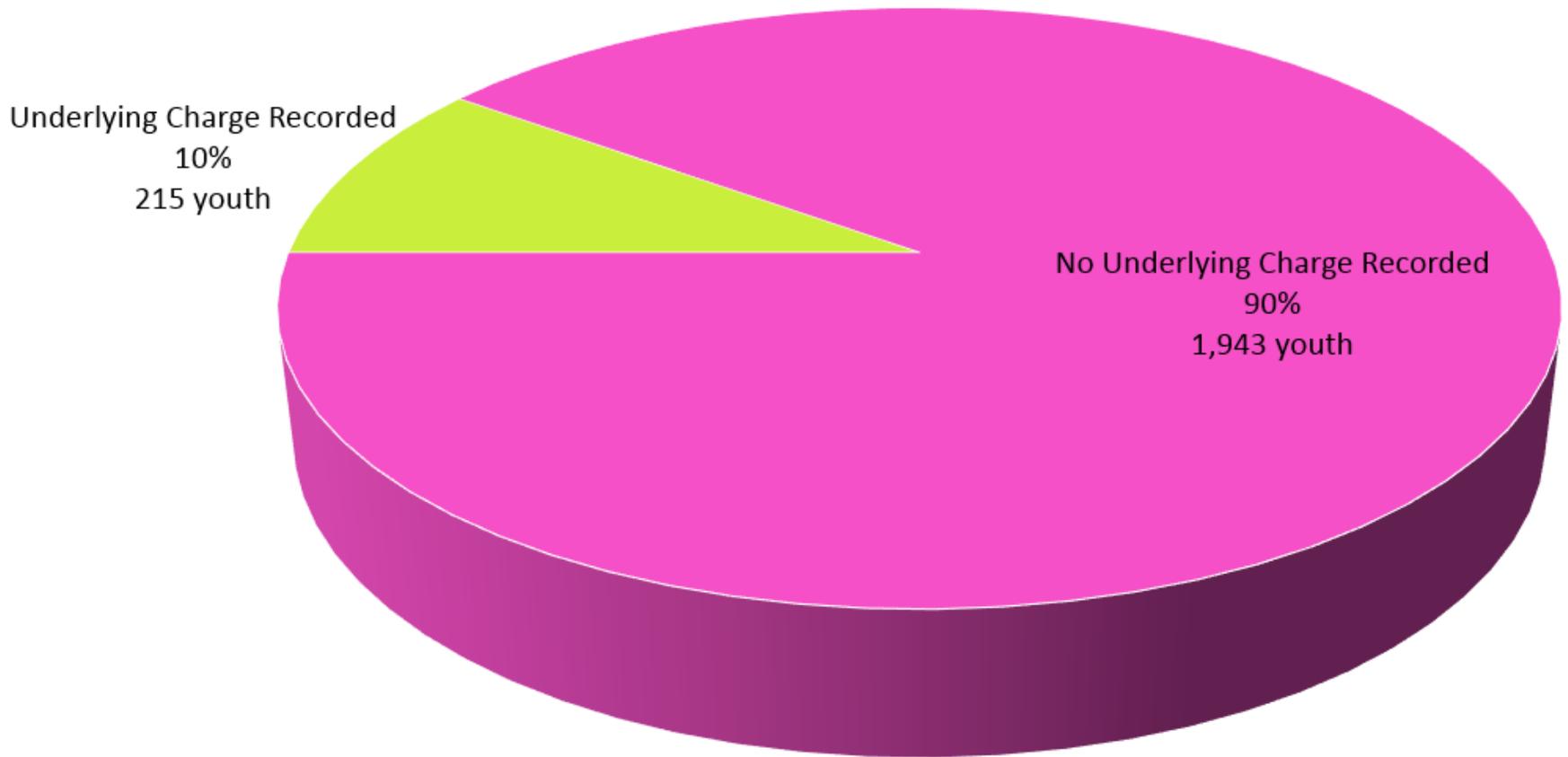


- There were 511 less admissions to secure detention in the current study period than in the comparison 2010-2011 study period.
- A larger proportion of admissions to secure detention (5 percentage points more) were related to court orders in the present 18-month study period than in the comparison 2010-2011 study period.

\*N = number of admissions. Individual youth may have been admitted and released multiple times during the study period

Of youth screened and remanded to secure detention in Palm Beach County, 10% of youth were DRAI screened on the basis of an underlying charge.

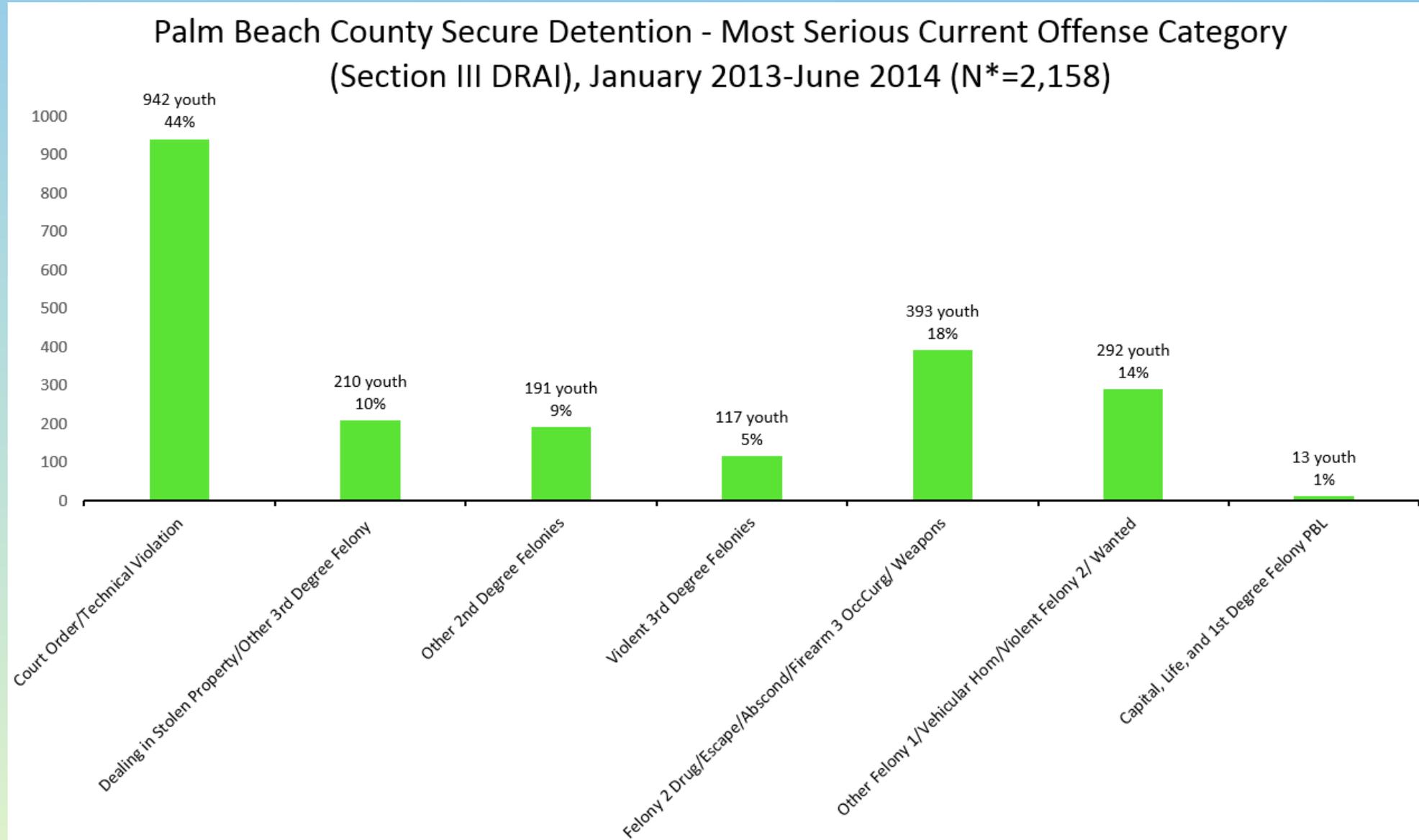
Youth Screened by DRAI and Admitted to Secure Detention in Palm Beach County - Presenting Charge v. Underlying Offense as Basis for DRAI Score, January 2013-June 2014 (N\*=2,158)



- There was a 4 percentage point increase in youth screened on an underlying charge and sent to secure detention between this 18-month period and the comparable 2010-2011 study period

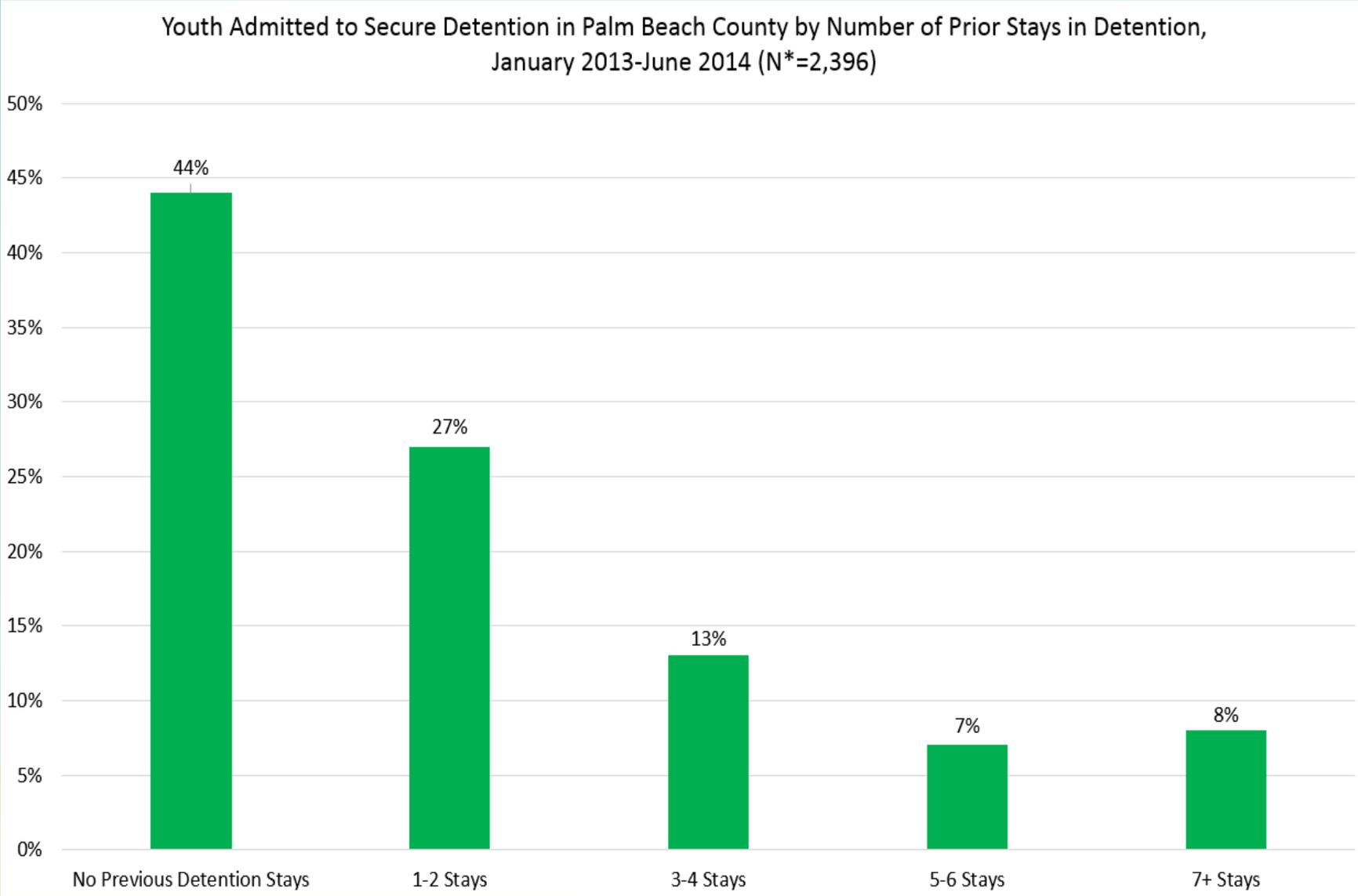
\*Includes all detained youth administered a DRAI screening within 1 day of (either before or after) beginning secure detention. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.

The distribution of most serious current offense for youth detained in Palm Beach County has remained stable since the January 2010-June 2011 comparison period



\*Includes all detained youth administered a DRAI screening within 1 day of (either before or after) beginning secure detention. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.

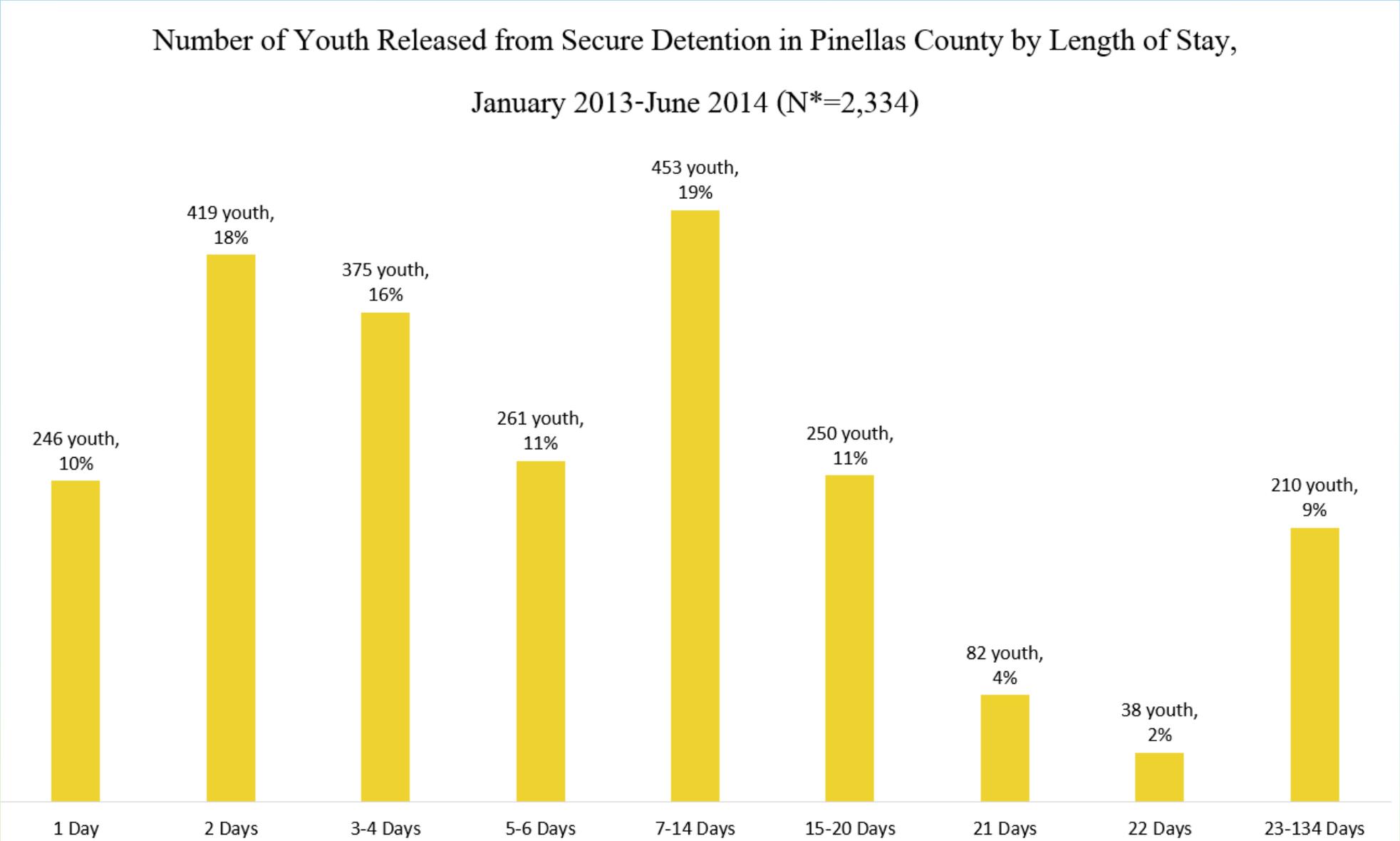
Of youth admitted to secure detention in Palm Beach County, almost half (44%) have never been in secure detention before.



- The distribution of prior detention stays has remained stable in Palm Beach County compared to the 2010-2011 study period.

\*N=First admission to secure detention within the 18-month study period for each youth

Over one quarter (28%) of youth in secure detention in Palm Beach County are only detained for 2 days.

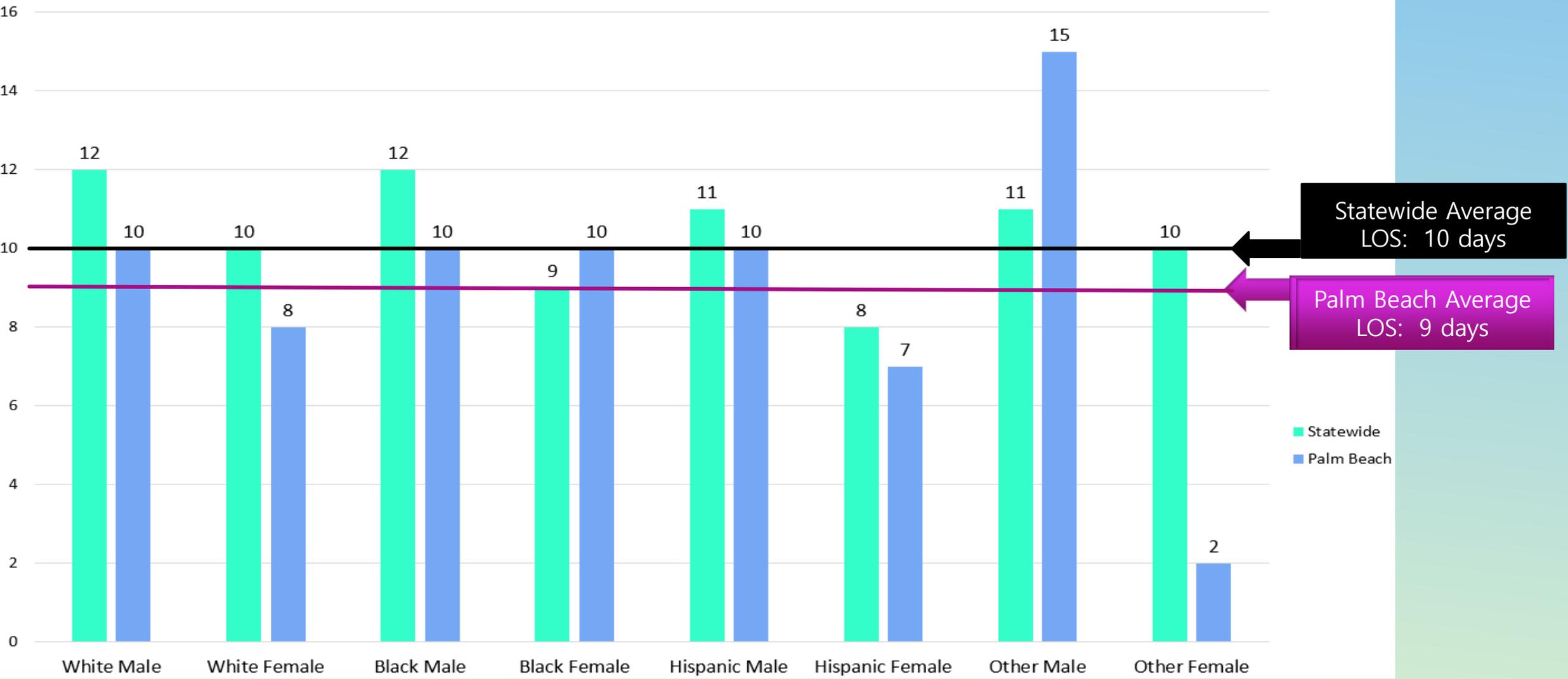


- The proportion of youth in secure detention for less than 24 hours is less than half what it was (21%) in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

\*N= number of releases. Individual youth may have been admitted and released multiple times during the study period.

The average length of stay in secure detention in Palm Beach County is one day shorter than the statewide average.

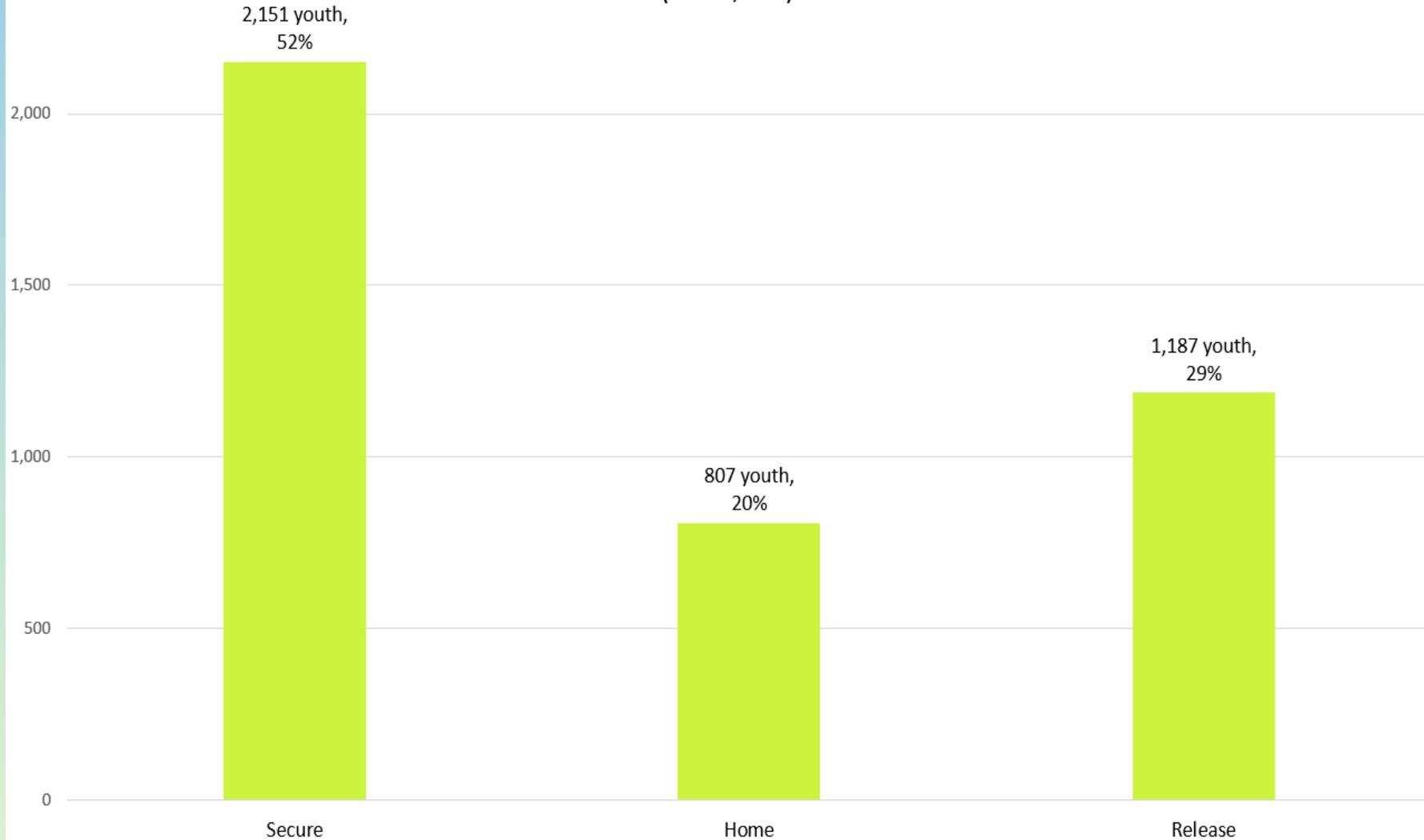
Average Length of Stay in Secure Detention in Palm Beach County by Gender/Race/Ethnicity, January 2013-June 2014 (N\*=2,334)



\*N = number of releases. Individual youth may have been admitted and released multiple times during the study period.

# DRAI Decision at Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center – Actual Outcome

Palm Beach County DRAI Records by Actual Detention Decision, January 2013-June 2014  
(N\*=4,145)



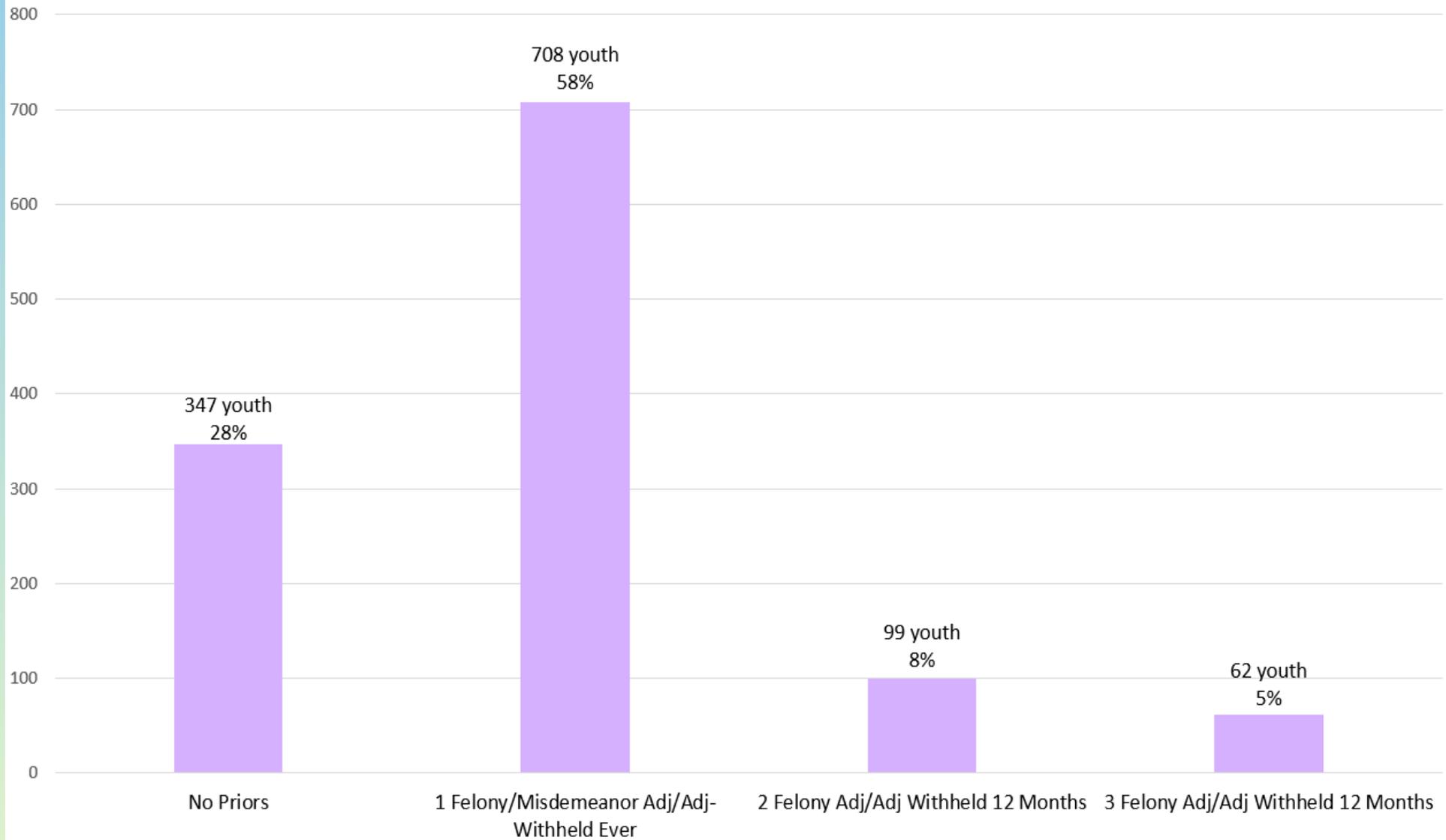
Of all youth with DRAI records (including youth with 0 scores):

- 52% were detained. This is 6 percentage points more than in the 2010-2011 comparison period
- 29% were released. This is 1 percentage point more than in the 2010-2011 comparison period
- 20% were placed on home detention. This is 6 percentage points less than in the 2010-2011 comparison period

\*N = all youth administered a DRAI screening. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.

# DRAI Section III Risk Assessment: C. Prior History – Palm Beach County Distribution

Number of Priors for All Detained Youth with a Non-Zero DRAI Score (N\*=1,216)

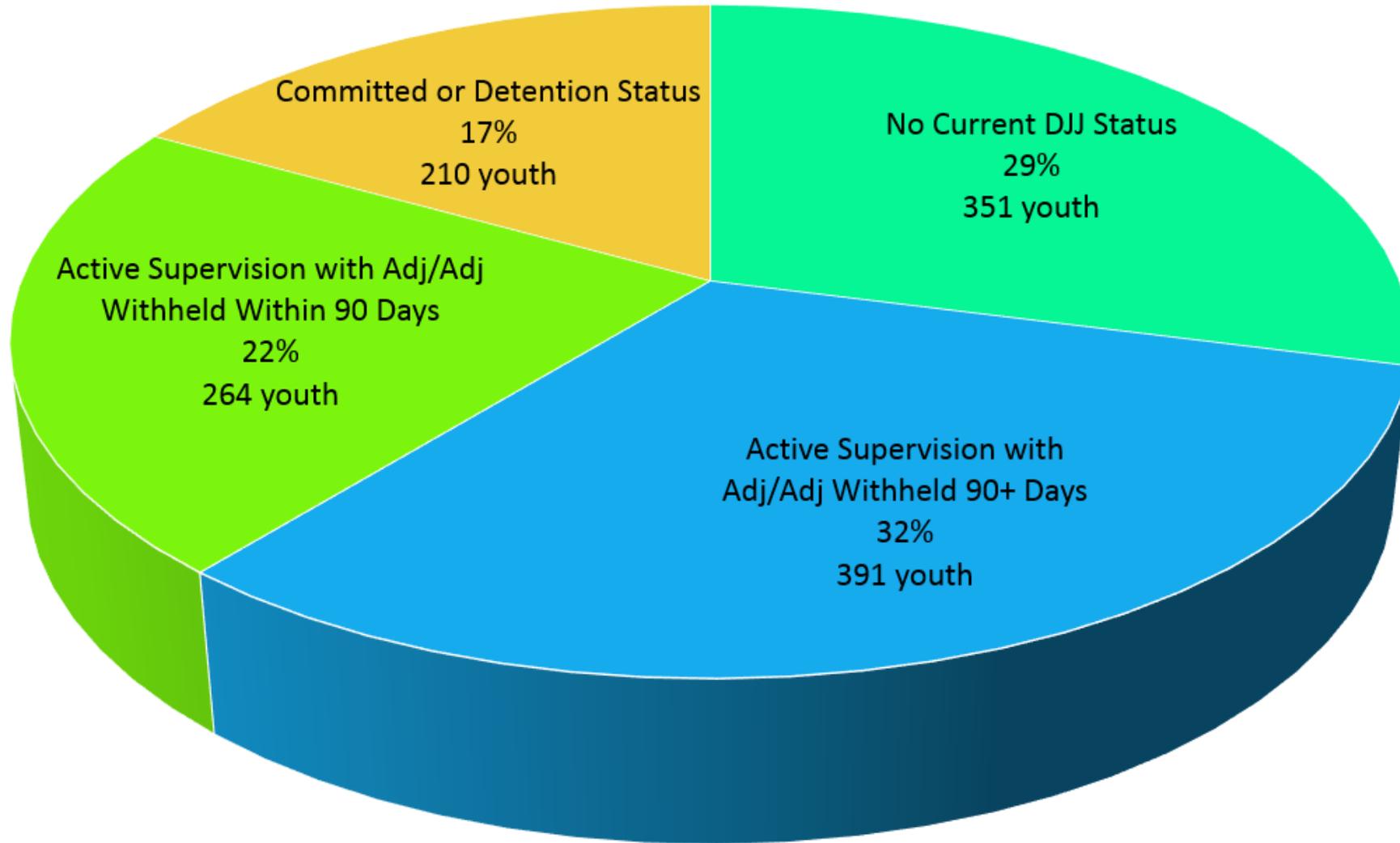


- 13% of youth detained had 2 or 3 felony adjudications which is 10 percentage points more than in the 2010-2011 comparison period, suggesting detention is being used for more serious offenders.
- 28% of youth detained had no prior history. This is 23 percentage points less than the 2010-2011 comparison period.

\*N = all detained youth administered a DRAI screening with a non-zero score. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.

# DRAI Section III Risk Assessment: D. Legal Status – Palm Beach County Distribution

Current DJJ Legal Status for All Detained Youth Non-Zero DRAI Scores (N\*=1,216)



- 29% of youth with non-zero DRAI scores detained in Palm Beach County do not have any active legal status. This is an 18 percentage point decrease from the 2010-2011 comparison period.
- The proportion of detained youth scoring “2) Active probation cases with last adjudication or adjudication withheld more than 90 days ago” on this section increased from 22% to 32% since the 2010-2011 comparison period.

\*N = all detained youth administered a DRAI screening with a non-zero score. Individual youth may have been scored multiple times during the study period.

# Palm Beach County Detention Overview: Strengths, Concerns, and Serious Concerns

## Strengths

- **Fewer first time offenders detained**
  - 28% of youth detained had no prior history. This is 23 percentage points less than the 2010-2011 comparison period.
- **Fewer less than 24 hour stays**
  - The proportion of youth in secure detention for less than 24 hours is less than half what it was in the comparable 2010-2011 study period.

## Concerns

- **Almost half of admissions are new to detention**
  - 44% of youth admitted to secure detention have never been to secure detention before
- **Long length of stays**
  - 210 youth spent more than 22 days in secure detention
- **More detention admissions for court orders and technical violations**
  - A larger proportion of admissions to secure detention (5 percentage points more) were related to court orders in the present 18-month study period than in the comparison 2010-2011 study period.

## Serious Concerns

- **Over half of all screenings result in detention**
  - 52% of youth screened go to secure detention as opposed to release, home, or respite
- **Half of all admissions are not for new charges**
  - 50% of admissions to secure detention are due to court orders and technical violations
- **Large increase in detention admissions**
  - Between FY2012-2013 and FY2013-2014, there was a 25% increase in detention admissions.