

2022



FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Protecting Children, Restoring Families, Involving Communities

Fulton County Juvenile Court's Vision:

To empower children and families by providing a fair, effective, and timely system of justice.

Fulton County Juvenile Court's Mission Statement:

The mission of Fulton County Juvenile Court is first to protect children and the community in matters brought before the court, to rehabilitate children, and to restore families; and second, to create opportunities for the community, partners, and stakeholders to actively engage in this mission.

Fulton County Juvenile Court's Core Values:

- 1) Accountability
- 2) Integrity
- 3) Respect
- 4) Service Fairness
- 5) Transparency
- 6) Trauma-Informed



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****This report covers the period of *January 01, 2022 through December 31, 2022*. The majority of the data presented throughout this report was generated using our case management system Juvenile Court Activity Tracking System (JCATS), managed by [Canyon Solutions](#).****

Message From Chief Presiding Judge Juliette W. Scales



Dear Citizens of Fulton County,

Just as the rest of the State of Georgia, and the country, Fulton County Juvenile Court has modified its operation system due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing public health matters, which began in March of 2020. These factors have pushed the court to find new and more innovative ways to maintain the safety of the court staff and the citizens of Fulton County who are involved with the court, while ensuring the critical function of the court to protect children and the community, to rehabilitate and restore children and families and to continue to serve as an institution of justice. The Judges and staff continue to handle all matters that come before the court, be it motions, petitions, preliminary, adjudicatory or review hearings, and programs and services either by direct means or virtually in order to accommodate the needs of all parties and protect the rights of all persons that come before the court.



Our Court's immediate transition from the courthouse and court offices to virtual format for its operations was implemented with steps being taken by Fulton County technological infrastructure and support for the juvenile court. There was the willingness and desire of the judges, juvenile court administration and staff to adapt to a new and very different way of providing services to

the public that made it possible for this court to continue with most services throughout the pandemic of 2020-2022. We continue to work to enhance and improve the services and have found benefits in many of the modifications made that we were not initially apparent to us. We have the responsibility to take action that will meet the urgent needs of our citizens today and prepare for what may be needed in the future. Through our dedicated efforts, our court system will continue to confront the challenges that we face, and I am certain that we can effectively respond to the needs of those seeking assistance and justice.

Using collaborative approaches, with the Fulton County Juvenile Court taking the lead, innovative strategies and techniques were employed that have reduced the number of children removed from their homes and placed into State custody, whether that be subject to allegations of dependency leading to foster care placements or delinquency findings resulting in placements in youth detention and rehabilitation centers. The strategies, techniques, and programs, to name a few, include ASCEND, the Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Unit, Citizen Review Panel, Family Dependency Treatment Court- (HOPE), Juvenile Drug Court-(CHOICES), and the Mediation Program. As well as the court's collaborations with the Truancy Intervention Project, @Promise Center, and YouthSpark. Together, these approaches have been shown by regression analysis to influence a dramatic decline in delinquency filings. This means we have far fewer children in the juvenile justice system and entering the cradle- or school-to-prison pipeline.

In conclusion, none of these great outcomes for children, youth, and families would have occurred without the tremendous commitment and dedication of juvenile court administration and staff, as well as our fellow stakeholders in both the public and private sectors. Thanks to all of you for your support and belief in the mission and vision of this Court.

Yours in Service,
Juliette W. Scales, Presiding Judge
Fulton County Juvenile Court

Court Leadership

The Judiciary conducts all hearings which are mandated by law to determine the existence of probable cause, the necessity for detention, adjudication and disposition of delinquency, dependency, children in need of services, and traffic offenses; grants legitimations, guardianships, sealing records, permission to marry, to join the military or to determine parent notification of a minor's intention to seek an abortion; as well as judicial reviews of children who are placed in foster care.

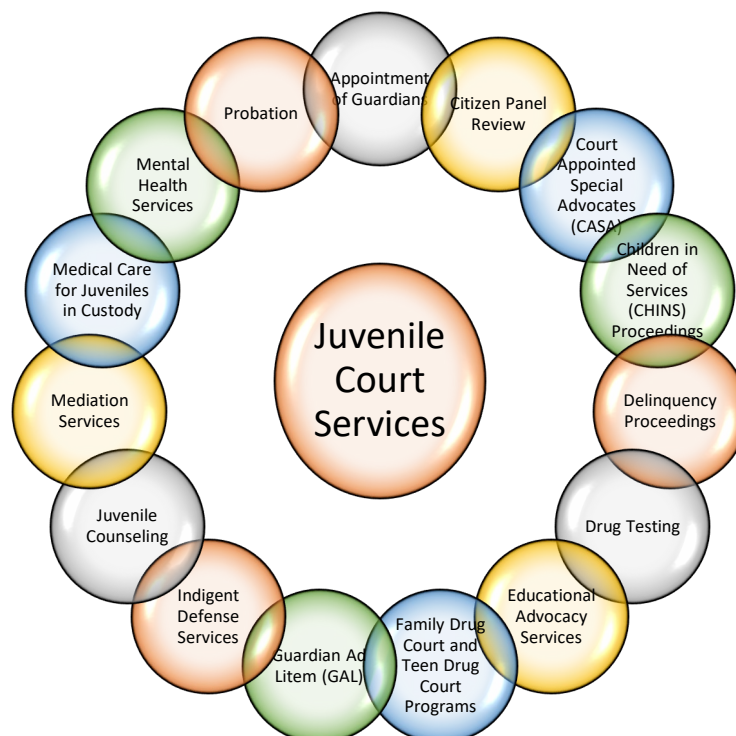
By special authorization of the Fulton County Superior Court, the Fulton County Juvenile Court also conducts adoptions for those cases where the termination of parent rights has occurred to expedite permanency for these children. Chief Presiding Judge Juliette W. Scales leads the judiciary and directs the operations of Fulton County Juvenile Court.

During 2022, Fulton County Juvenile Court is served by four full-time Judges and three Associate Judges. Chief Presiding Judge Scales has served the court since 2002 and was appointed as Chief Presiding Judge in 2018. Judge Renata D. Turner served the court as an Associate Judge in April 2015 and became a Presiding Judge in May 2017 and has secured the Deputy Chief Presiding Judge since 2019. Judge Wenona C. Belton was appointed as Judge in January 2020, having served the Court as an Associate Judge since July 2013. Judge Christopher W. Yokom was appointed as an Associate Judge in January 2020.

Associate Judge Phillip Jackson was appointed to the Fulton County Juvenile Court bench on June 12, 2009. Associate Judge Coy J. Johnson was appointed to the Juvenile Court bench in February 2020. Associate Judge Shalanda M. J. Miller was appointed to the Juvenile Court bench in January 2020.

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

In keeping with its mission and mandates from both Fulton County and the State of Georgia, Fulton County Juvenile Court provides the following services:



Fulton County Juvenile Court serves the residents of Fulton County by hearing all case allegations of dependency of children under the age of 18, allegations of delinquency, unruly conduct and traffic violations involving children under the age of 17.

The Court is organized under Title 15, Chapter 11 of the Official Code of Georgia and its focus is supporting juvenile justice reform and providing services to youth and their families while maintaining public safety. Under the leadership of Chief Presiding Judge Juliette W. Scales, we have built a system that is focused on partnering with other Fulton County Departments, law enforcement, community partners, and Fulton County citizens which guide the various court initiatives that center around positive outcomes for youth and their families who enter our doors.

2021 found our community as well as our Court adjusting to the new normal that the COVID-19 Pandemic brought. Our staff have worked diligently to incorporate and enhance various initiatives, programs, and Case Management System (JCATS) updates. Additionally, we streamlined procedures and attend various trainings to ensure the court can provide full support to its constituents.

Fulton County Juvenile Court wants to express our sincere gratitude to all internal and external partners, as well as Fulton County citizens who support our mission and work. For those interested in partnering with Fulton County Juvenile Court, please contact Court Administration at 404.613.4459. We welcome the involvement of the business community, community partners, law enforcement, and our Fulton citizens in supporting our mission.

This annual report includes the summaries from each department that work to ensure that the youth and their families who enter our doors are appropriately served. Each department provides highlights of the program and services that are available.

Court Administration

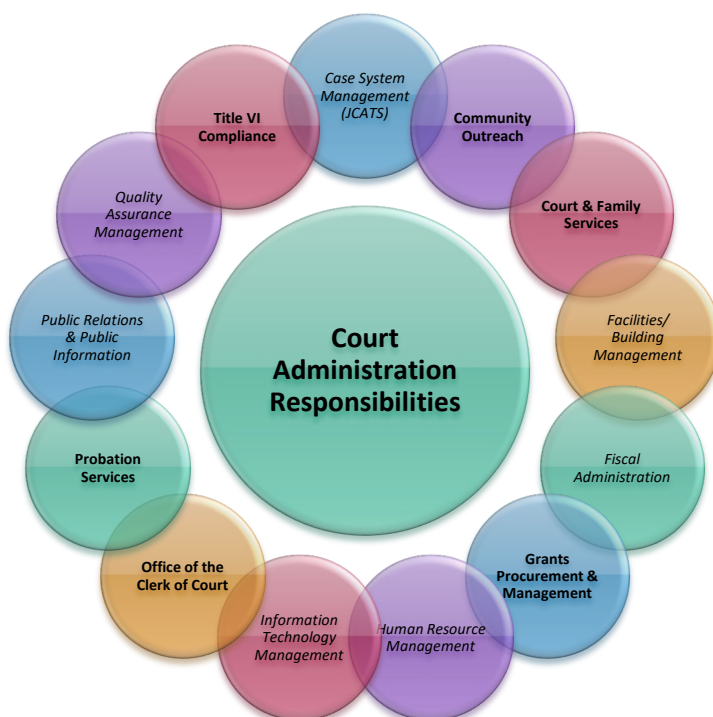
The Administrative Office of Fulton County Juvenile Court falls under the leadership of Chief Administrative Officer Timothy Ezell who oversees the daily operations of all departments in Juvenile Court (Court Administration, Behavioral Health, Clerk's office, Court and Family Services, Probation Services, and Programming and Grants). Additionally, to directly manage agency level functions Mr. Ezell directly oversee all administrative functions to include Human Resources, Information Technology, Accounting & Finance, Public Relations, Quality Assurance and Data, and Building Services.



Court Administration oversees the development of the court's budget and provides personnel administration, procurement services, the fiscal management of grants, facility management and planning, and electronic and telecommunications systems development and maintenance.

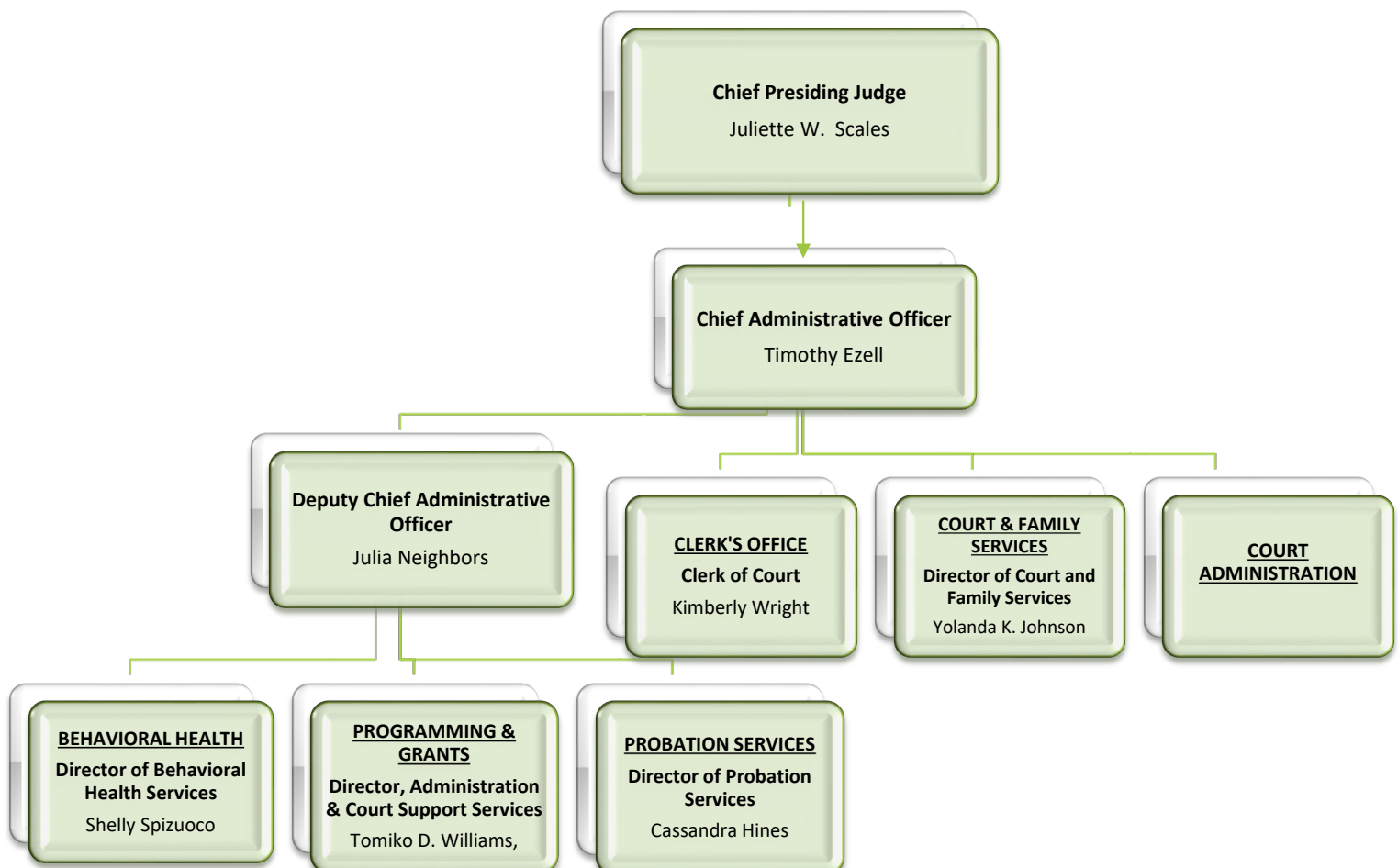
More specifically, Fulton County Juvenile Court, Court Administration provides oversight of the following:

- ✓ **Accounting & Finance:** Responsible for the development and management of the Court's annual budget, in addition to tracking revenues and expenditures throughout the fiscal year.
- ✓ **Behavioral Health:** Responsible for the prevention, early intervention and treatment of behavioral health related issues impacting children, youth, and their families.
- ✓ **Public Relations:** Responsible for all interactions with the public, members of the press/media and interagency and intergovernmental communication.
- ✓ **Court & Family Services:** Responsible for managing and overseeing the Educational Advocate, the Citizen Review Panel, and the Mediation Program. Combined, the division provides and manages services to qualifying children, youth, and families in support of Juvenile Court's mission.
- ✓ **Grants Procurement & Management:** Responsible for identifying grant opportunities, applying for grants, and managing awarded grant funds.
- ✓ **Human Resources:** Responsible for the management of the Court's employees, organizational structure, personnel transactions, and personnel development.
- ✓ **Information Technology:** Responsible for the procurement, distribution, and management of the Court's technology-related resources, including computers, laptops, internet protocol, telephones, mobile devices, courtroom recording equipment, and assistive listening devices.
- ✓ **Clerk's Office:** Responsible for maintaining the official records of the Court in accordance with existing state and local statutes, and uniform Juvenile Court Rules and Procedures.
- ✓ **Probation Services:** Responsible for providing treatment, rehabilitative services and supervision to children who have been found to violate state and local ordinances. Probation operates several subunits, including multiple diversion programs that provide alternatives to the traditional adjudication process for qualifying youth.
- ✓ **Quality Assurance and Data:** Responsible for the case management and data systems utilized by the court (JCATS). The Quality Assurance and Data team provides various reports, statistical information, and continuous quality improvement checks on process and data integrity.
- ✓ **Title VI Compliance:** Responsible for ensuring that Juvenile Court is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended and all related regulations and directives.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fulton County Juvenile Court operations fall under the authority of the Chief Presiding Judge, Judge Juliette W. Scales. All department and administrative functions fall under the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Mr. Timothy Ezell. The CAO directs and manages all Juvenile Court staff and is responsible for the planning and directing of all Juvenile Court services in their respective departments. Under the direction of each Director, the staff assists in providing advanced administrative, educational, investigative, diagnostic, supervisory, and support services in their assigned roles.



Superlatives & Standout Achievements

Accounting & Finance

For the fiscal year ended 2022, the state of the Fulton County Juvenile Court is “Strong”. As with all the Court’s partners in the Fulton County Justice System, the Court has weathered the devastating effects of the COVID-19 crisis and come through the crisis resilient and continually able to meet the needs of the youth, children, and families that are served by the Court.

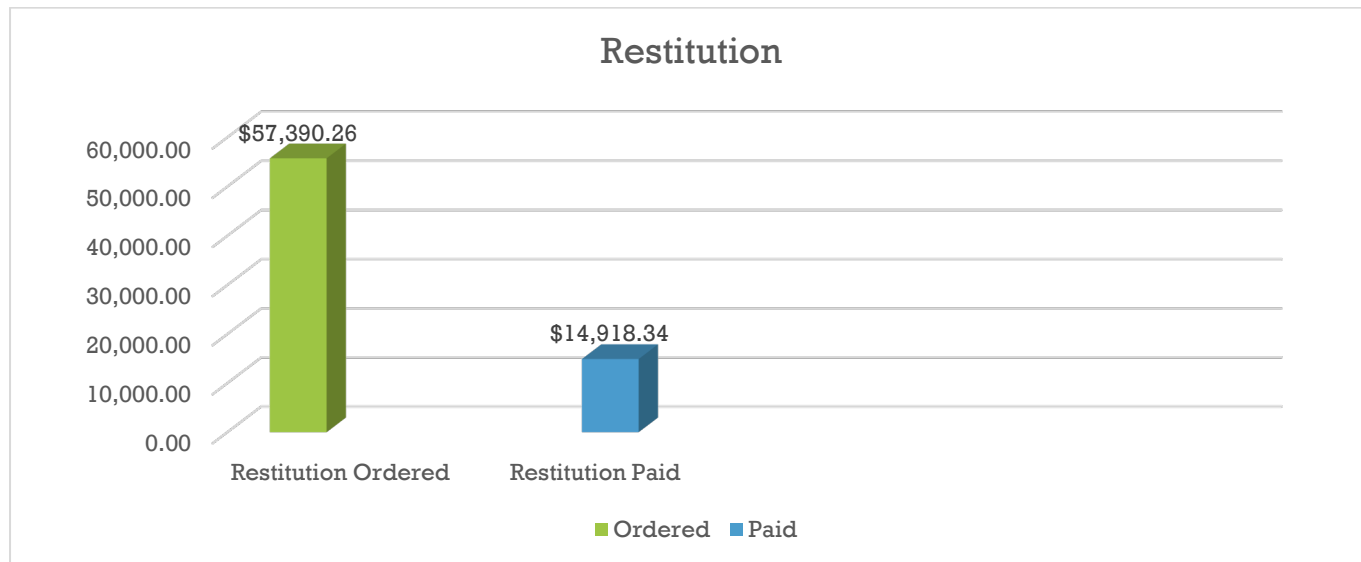
The Fulton County Juvenile Court is a part of the Justice System of the Fulton County Government and as such, receives the predominance of its funding from the Fulton County General Fund. The General Fund’s primary source of revenue is property tax. In the budget assumptions for FY2022, the County assumed a 96% tax collection rate, which was in line with historical trends. Fulton County’s overall amended general fund budget for FY22 was \$857,196,262.

- Of this amount, Fulton County Juvenile Court’s amended FY22 budget allocation was \$15,712,574. Of this budget allocation, the Court had actual expenses for FY22 of \$15,620,623, which equates to a 99.41% utilization rate of its allocated budget.
- Additionally, most of the actual expenses for FY22 are personnel expenses in the amount of \$14,155,523 for items such as salaries and fringe benefits of Court staff.
- The FY22 amount for operational expenses was \$1,465,099. The bulk of these expenses include items that are utilized in the day-to-day operation of the Court. One item that is included in these expenses that was requested by Chief Judge Juliette Scales and approved by the County as an enhancement to the Court’s budget was \$50,000 of recurring funding for EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision or Effective Practices in the Correctional Setting) training. EPICS is a structured set of skills used by Probation Officers to specifically address criminogenic needs of youth involved in the court system.

Over the last few years leading up to the pandemic, the Court has seen its budget gradually increase. Prior to the pandemic, Fulton County Juvenile Court’s FY20 budget was \$15,168,236. In 2021, the Court’s amended budget was \$15,660,731 and of course in FY2022 the Court’s amended budget was \$15,712,574. The increase has been primarily due to increased cost for personnel expense as the County implemented a 7% Cost of Living Adjustment(COLA) to all staff employed as of January 2022. Additionally, the County found that certain key classifications are experiencing high attrition rates, which could severely hamper the County’s ability to operate. In order to compensate for the key classifications, the County provided funding for these key classification positions, which also had an impact on the Court. Lastly, in addition to the aforementioned items, the County had implemented a phased in Incremental Compensation Strategy (ICS) Plan in the latter half of 2021. The County’s Board of Commissioners implemented all these measures to address the mounting pressures affecting employee retention and recruiting capabilities in the competitive labor market.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE REPORTS

Restitution is a sum of money paid by an offender to compensate the victim for the financial losses caused by the delinquent act. It is justified in a restorative justice perspective as a method of holding offenders accountable for their wrongdoing and as a method of repairing the victim's loss or injury. During the 2022 calendar year, there was a total of \$57,390.26 in restitution fees ordered to victims. Payments in the amount of \$14,918.24 were made by youth on supervised probation.

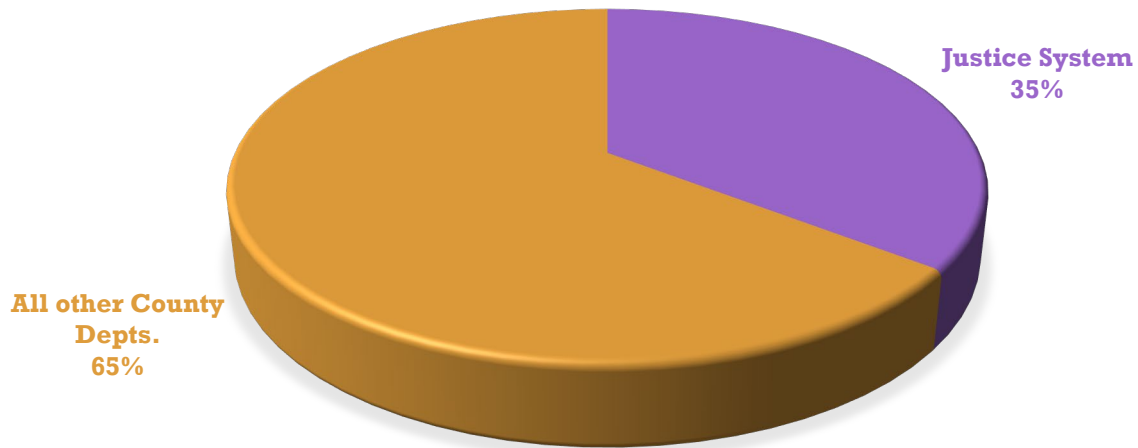


Data Source: JCATS Reports – “Restitution Ordered Detail” and “Restitution Transactions”, 2nd of each month, Cumulative Reporting
Date Range: January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

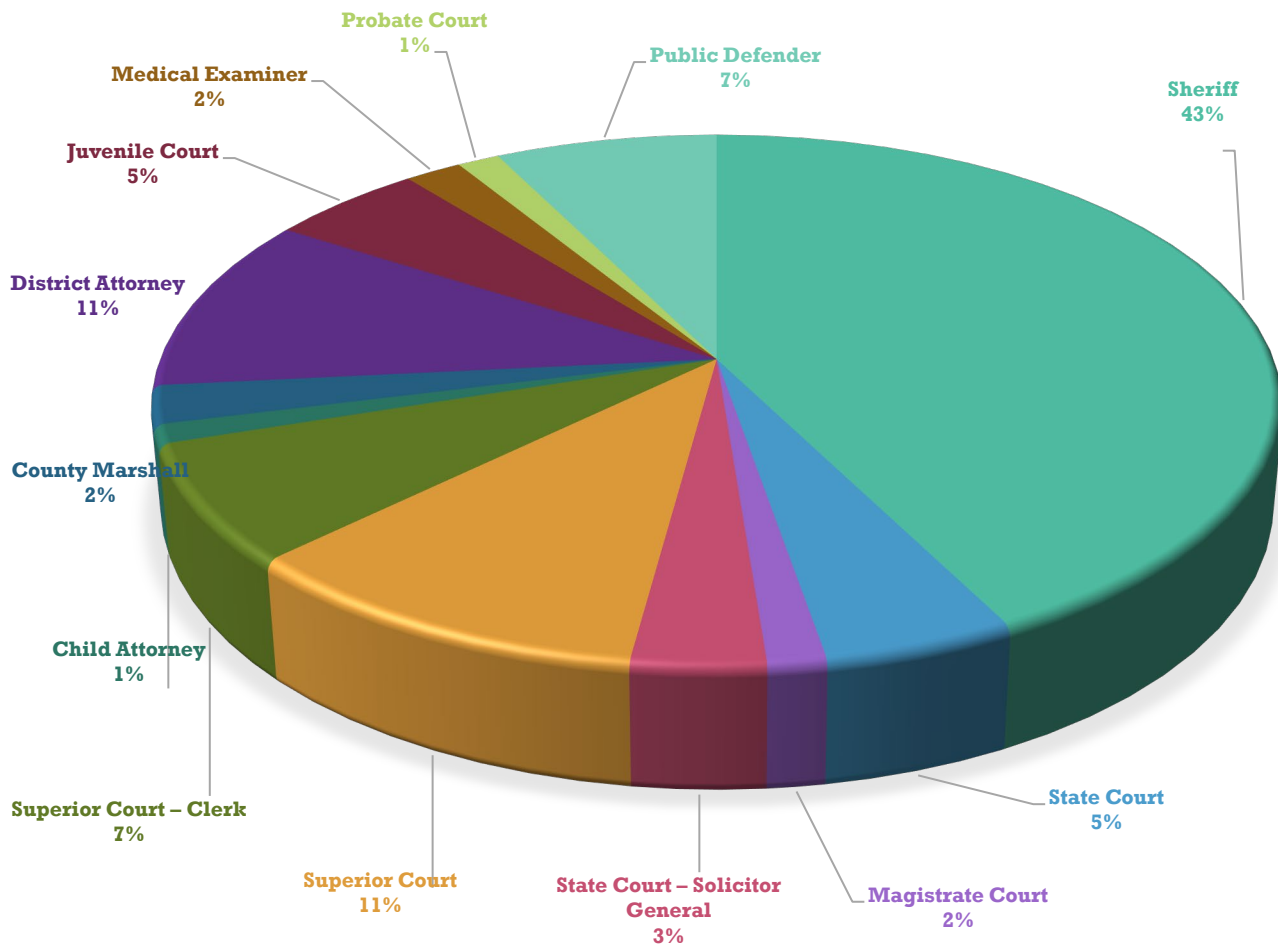
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Courtyard Renovation project – a collaborative courtyard project that will allow for a “playground” theme for Juvenile Court’s Courtyard.
- Juvenile Court Website Update - \$115,000 project to design and configure a new website application for Fulton County Juvenile Court. This new application will provide Juvenile Court with the ability to transmit directly to the courts case management system JCATS. This application will also create a portal for our court to receive credit card payments for fines and fees ordered by the court.
- Justice Case Activity Tracking System (JCATS) - \$220,000 upgrade project to Juvenile Courts Judicial Case Management system. This upgrade will allow for an increase in maintenance hours, increased data extract capacity, dedicated maintenance hours and increased direct data access to support/training for Juvenile Court.
- Camera system update – Completed camera system update for Juvenile Court.

2022 FULTON COUNTY GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS (%)



2022 Fulton County Justice System General Fund Appropriations (%)



Superlatives & Standout Achievements

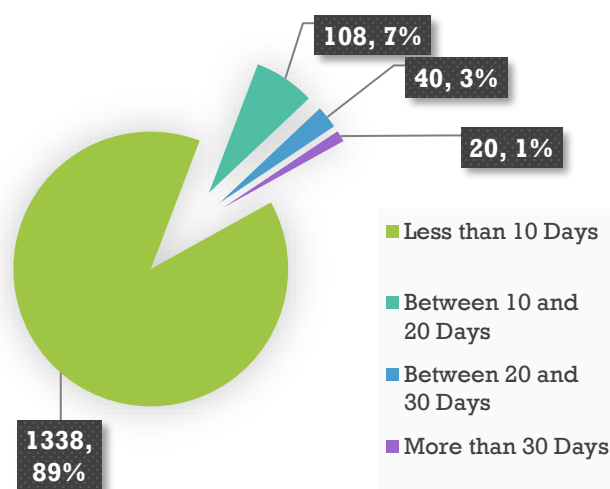
Information Technology

Fulton County Juvenile Court (FCJC) has made many improvements regarding information technology in 2022. Along with the addition of key technologies to enhance courtroom capabilities, support processes have been improved to reduce response times and resolve technology issues more efficiently. Juvenile Court Information Technology (JCIT) staff has provided laptops to the Clerk's Office, Intake staff to allow for increased flexibility. This unit is open 24 hours 7 days a week to receive compliance from various law enforcement agencies and the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS).

Laptops provided by the JCIT staff also now come with the softphone feature enabled to improve collaboration capabilities. A softphone is a software program for making telephone calls over the Internet using a general-purpose computer rather than dedicated hardware. The softphone can be installed on a piece of equipment such as a desktop, mobile device, or other computer and allows the user to place and receive calls without requiring an actual telephone.

JCIT staff has also worked with Fulton County Information Technology (FCIT) on computer systems rollouts, including a migration for all court staff to Microsoft 365. This allows for court staff to use up-to-date web application versions of popular applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc. from any computer with internet access. The migration of users' internal drives (H-drives) to a cloud-based technology allows for easier access of user's files without the need for a VPN. The VPN is a secure and private network that is achieved by using encryption over a public network (e.g., internet). The following are other 2022 accomplishments from JCIT staff:

IT Ticket Resolution Time



- 98% of JCIT tickets were successfully resolved within 30 days by staff.
- Deployed new courtroom technologies, including document presenters and touchscreen witness stand monitors with whiteboarding capabilities, alongside all necessary training for judicial case managers.
- Enhanced JCIT support for court staff through procedural changes to ticket handling, notification, work notes, and response times. 1500+ support tickets were opened by court staff and closed by the Juvenile Court Information Technology team in 2022 alone.
- Expanded laptop deployment to include Intake staff.
- Upgraded to network infrastructure for courtrooms to improve hybrid hearing stability, quality, and availability.

Superlatives & Standout Achievements

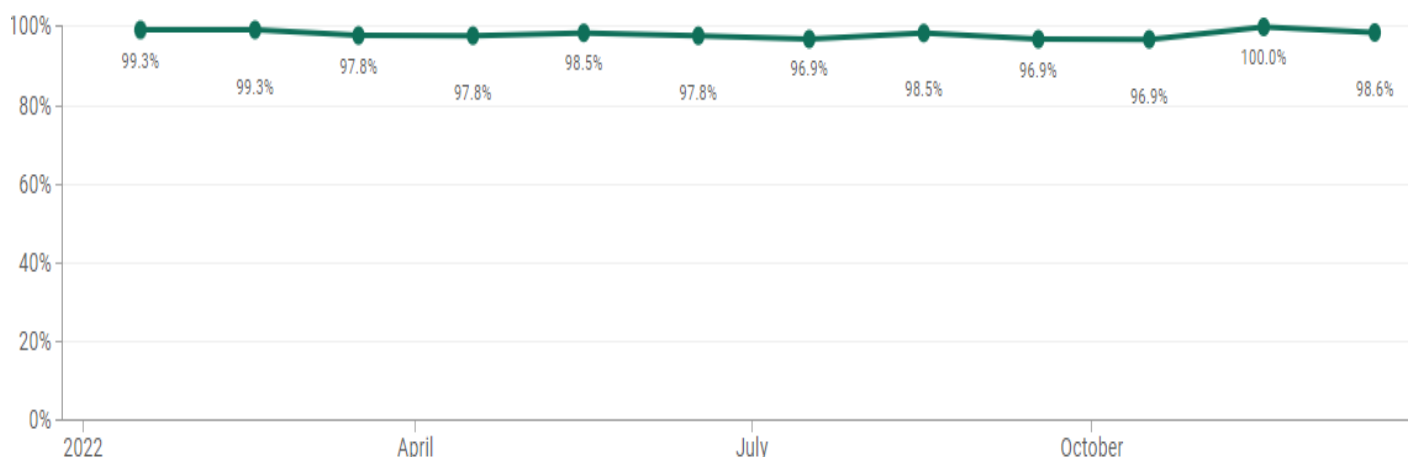
Human Resources

Fulton County Juvenile Court (FCJC) has made enormous strides in its employee relations and human resources. Based on the FCJC's strategic Plan, Court Administration, Human Resources worked on in 2022 increasing the effectiveness of Human Resources processes by completing the following objectives:

- Provided tools and support to managers and court staff.
 - ✓ Conducted mock interviews for juvenile court staff.
 - ✓ Conducted multiple departmental employee orientations.
 - ✓ Created internal tracking system for onboarding for all new hires and promotions.
 - ✓ Created new employee profile form (tracks building access, equipment, funding source, JCATS access level, etc.) to expedite the onboarding process.
 - ✓ Facilitated the *Accountability, Performance Feedback and Disciplinary Action training* for all levels of management.
 - ✓ Increased staff awareness on training opportunities by provide announcements through the *All.JuvenileCourt* email distribution.
 - ✓ Shared monthly Employee Assistance Program (EAP) training opportunities with all Juvenile Court staff.
 - ✓ Shared semi-annual county-wide training opportunities with all juvenile court staff.
 - ✓ Streamlined recruitment and onboarding process.
- Developed opportunities to enhance employee engagement.
 - ✓ Partnered with Employee Engagement committee to host an employee celebration (July) and end of the year holiday celebration (December).

During 2022, Juvenile Court retain 96.9% to 99.3% of its workforce.

Juvenile Court: Retention Rate per Month



Superlatives & Standout Achievements

Quality Assurance & Data

One of the main purposes of the Court Administration, Quality Assurance & Data unit is to ensure the quality of the data tracked throughout Juvenile Court's case management system. This system, Justice Case Activity Tracking System (JCATS), is provided by Canyon Solutions. This goal is achieved through collaboration with various departments within Juvenile Court and biweekly meetings with Canyon Solution Account representative for JCATS on a biweekly bases to discuss and track various approved JCATS enhancements.

Court Administration, Quality Assurance & Data unit is also responsible for the coordination of department policies. In 2022, Juvenile Court began working with ComplianceBridge to create a platform to create and track policies created by department directors and acknowledged by Juvenile Court employees. While this system was under construction, Juvenile Court partnered with Fulton County Information Technology (FCIT) to ensure current policies were available on SharePoint. SharePoint is a web-based collaborative platform that integrates natively with Microsoft 365.

Finally, this unit is responsible for special projects, as well, as conducting research and data analysis for Juvenile Court. In 2022, Court Administration, Quality Assurance & Data unit worked in collaboration of various departments with Juvenile Court on the following special projects:

Enhance the quality of data tracked throughout each department in Juvenile Court

- **Updated Classic JCATS to Next Generation (NG) JCATS in collaboration with Canyon Solutions**
 - ❖ Implemented focus groups by departments to discuss changes and discuss any JCATS recommendations.
 - ❖ Launched NG JCATS Enhancement Testing Phase: Live demo was held on October 14 & 17, 2022
- **Conducted audits of data being tracked by each department.**
 - ❖ Provided court leadership with reports on data entry errors identify by review of JCATS reports.
 - ❖ Offered refresher JCATS training for Juvenile Court staff, as requested.
- **Developed standardized ways of entering data to increase reporting reliability.**
 - ❖ Created individualize JCATS guides based on rights and roles associated with each position by the function of the user (i.e., Mediation).
 - ❖ Conducted a two-part training; JCATS Navigation and a Roles & Rights training (i.e., Judicial Case Manager and Mediations).
- **Developed a centralized location for all court policies and procedures.**
 - ❖ Explored ways to maximize Fulton County's SharePoint system to create a repository for all court policies and procedures.
 - ❖ Kicked Off meeting with ComplianceBridge to discuss online repository platform to host court policies and SOPs.
- **Partner with each department to identify ways to quantify data for Dashboards.**
 - ❖ Worked with each director to identify key data to be tracked and displayed on dashboards by department.

Superlatives & Standout Achievements

Justice Pathways Partnership

A simple definition of juvenile delinquency can be summed up as a moral and criminal act committed by a minor who was under the age of 18. Juvenile delinquency appears to be growing daily and this surge has impacted communities, schools, and the local government. Years ago, violence from gangs were the reason for juvenile delinquency. Gangs specifically targeted certain groups. Now, more heinous crimes are being committed by youth under the age of 18. The problems that continue, are about where to place the youth based on the crime they committed and considering their age. The echoing of delinquency has been apparent by others who are challenged daily to find the most appropriate consequence to these behaviors.

The Fulton County Juvenile Court (FCJC) is proud to be at the forefront of addressing the harmful effects of removing children from school and into the juvenile justice system through our School-Justice Pathways Partnership. The Justice Pathways Partnership ("Partnership") was created in 2014, after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention awarded a technical assistance grant to the Fulton County Juvenile Court. FCJC was one of 16 counties across the country selected to participate in the School Pathways to Juvenile Justice System Project led by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges ("NCJFCJ").

In 2022, statistics show that the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted global organizations, state-operated agencies, local jurisdictions, private businesses, and individuals alike. In March of 2020, juvenile justice agencies were instantly faced with the overwhelming challenge of maintaining 24/7 daily operations while ensuring the safety and well-being of staff and youth in their care. Juvenile justice leaders had to think quickly and generate creative solutions to the challenges they faced.

The Justice Pathways Partnership, led by Judge Renata Turner, is comprised of key partners from Atlanta Public Schools (APS), Fulton County Schools System (FCSS), Juvenile Probation, the state Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the state Division of Family and Children Services, Georgia Appleseed, the Fulton County Juvenile Court Judges, and other stakeholders in the education and juvenile justice communities. The Partnership's mission is to reduce the number of children referred to Juvenile Court, keep more children in their home schools and, thereby, improve graduation rates. To achieve the mission's goals, the Justice Pathways Partnership began the task of developing effective data collection and sharing strategies to ensure that its efforts are evidence-based and have a structure to measure success.

"Pathways continues to meet quarterly, working collaboratively to address the evolving needs and issues facing schools and students." **Judge Turner**



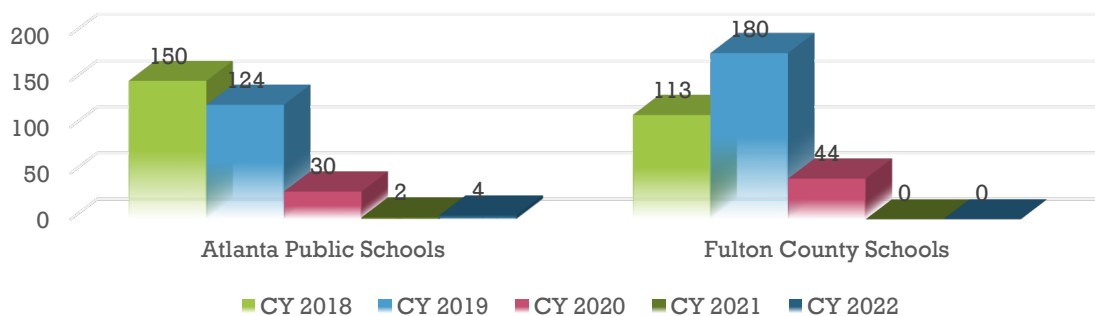
TRUANCY CASES

In Georgia, any child “subject to compulsory attendance who, during the school calendar year, has more than five (5) days of unexcused absences been considered truant.” Below you will see the number of cases per the calendar years 2018-2022 that has been reported for Atlanta Public Schools (APS) and Fulton County Public Schools (FCSS). The truancy cases for both APS and FCSS were the highest in the years 2018 and 2019. After which, there was a significant decrease in 2020 (80% APS, 61% FCSS). For the calendar year of 2022, zero cases were reported for FCSS and four cases for APS.

Truancy Cases Reported by School Districts

	<i>CY 2018</i>	<i>CY 2019</i>	<i>CY 2020</i>	<i>CY 2021</i>	<i>CY 2022</i>
Atlanta Public Schools	150	124	30	2	4
Fulton County Schools	113	180	44	0	0
Totals	263	304	74	2	4

Truancy Cases Reported By School Districts Per Year

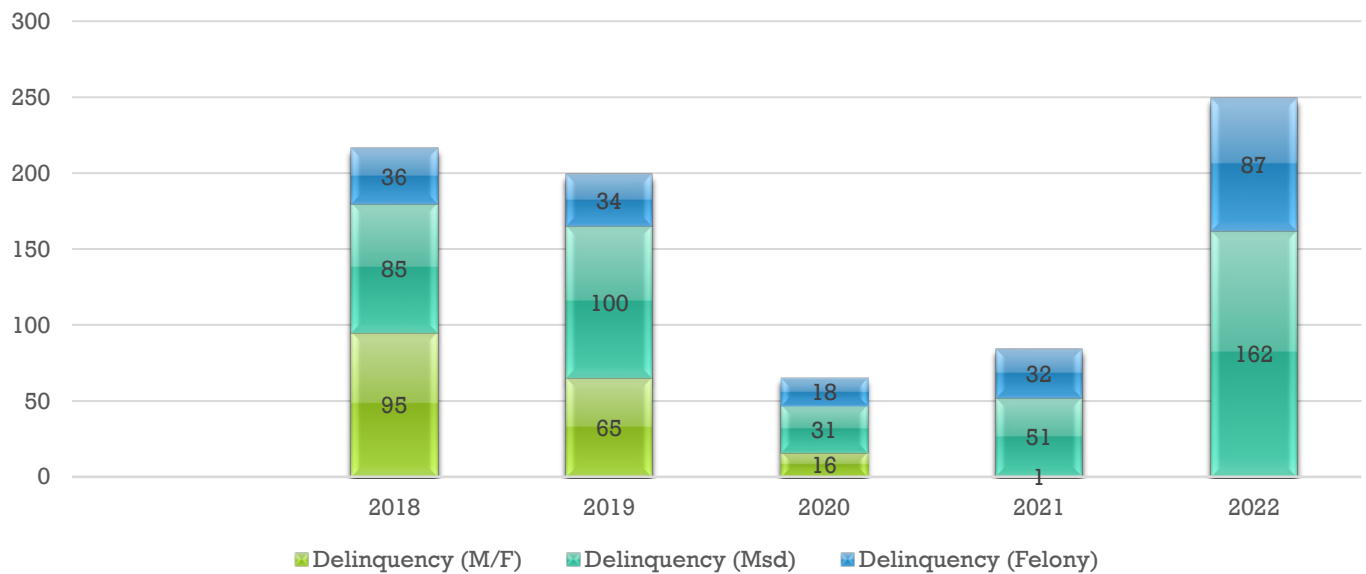


Data Source: JCATS Spreadsheet (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) Reporting

DELINQUENCY CASES REPORTED BY SCHOOL OFFICES & FILED IN JUVENILE COURT

Delinquency cases filed by school officials dropped from 2018 through 2020 for Atlanta Public Schools (APS). The most significant drop in delinquency cases filed by school officials was in 2020 (67.34%). Then the number of cases filed by school officials continued to increase from 2021 and 2022. The largest increase in cases filed was in 2022 (196.43%). The number of cases filed exceeded those filed in 2018.

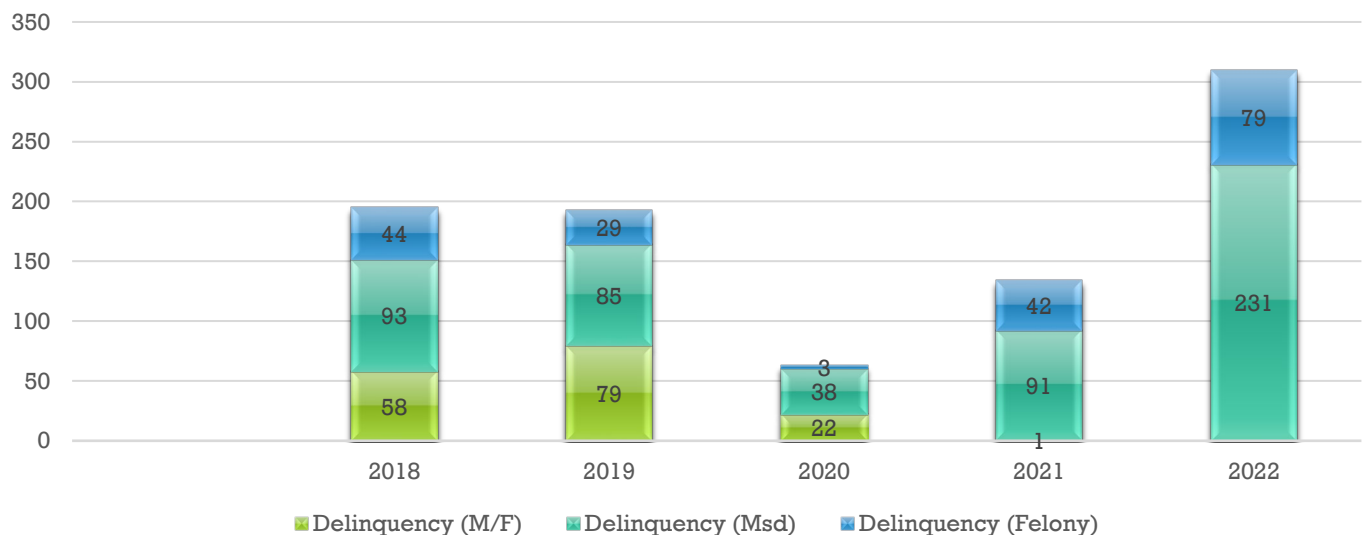
Atlanta Public Schools (APS): School Report - Delinquency Cases Filed Per Year



Data Source: JCATS Cases Filed in a Date Range (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) Reporting

The number of cases filed in Fulton County School System (FCSS) declined from 2018 through 2020. The largest decline of cases filed by school officials was in 2020 (67.36%). From 2020 through 2022, there is an increase in delinquency cases filed by school officials. The largest increase is seen in 2022 (134.34%).

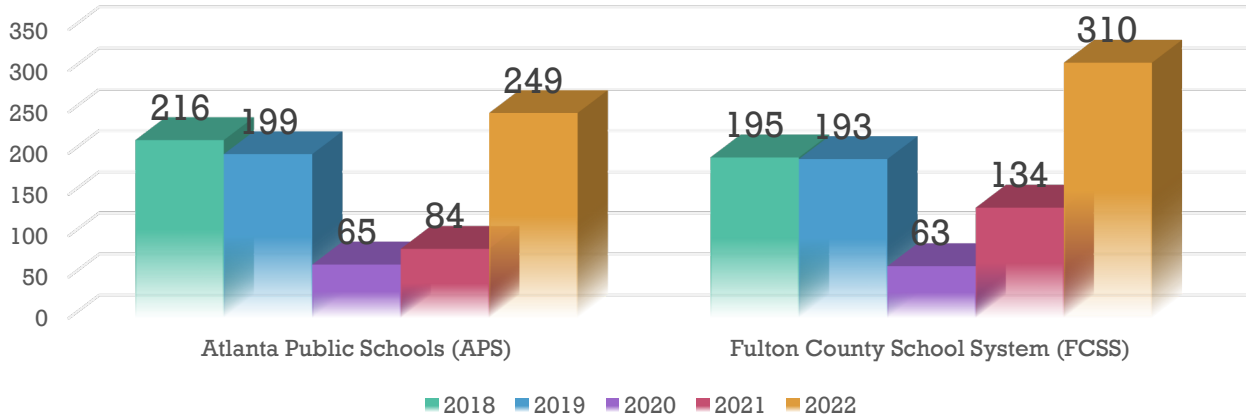
Fulton County School System (FCSS): School Report - Delinquency Cases Filed Per Year



Data Source: JCATS Cases Filed in a Date Range (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) Reporting

Both Atlanta Public Schools (APS) and Fulton County School System (FCSS) have similar trends in cases filed by school officials. Both experienced a significant drop during the COVID19 pandemic. In 2020, schools across the country suspended or modified in-person classes in accordance with federal, state, and local guidance related to the risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Students may have spent less time at school than in previous years due to these modified procedures. Additional information on trends can be found on the National

COMPARISON: Total School Reported - Delinquency (DL) Cases Filed Per Year



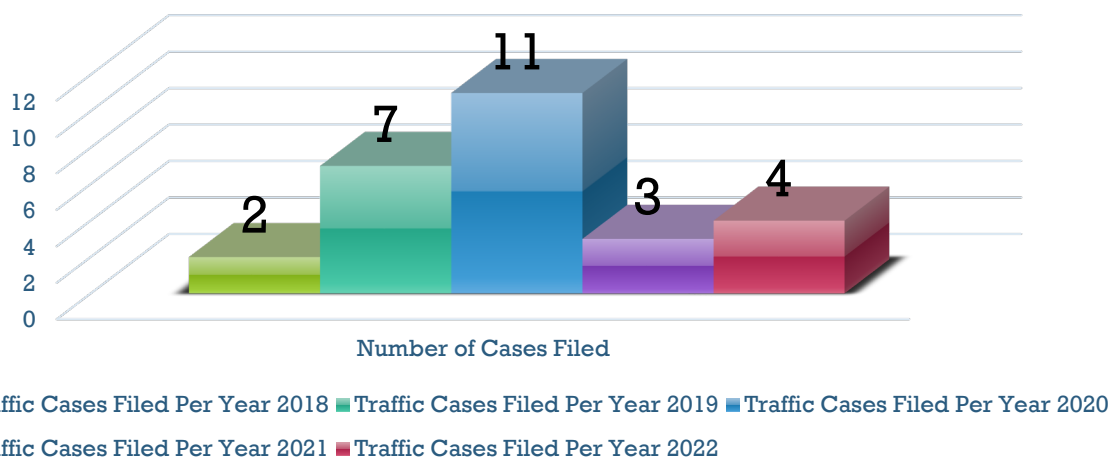
Data Source: JCATS Cases Filed in a Date Range (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) Reporting

SCHOOL RELATED TRAFFIC CASES REPORTED BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS

School related traffic cases are cases that either happened on school property or within the school zone. The overall number of school related traffic offenses have varied in number from the year 2019, however it gradually decreased from the school year 2020 to the school year 2022 as shown in the chart below. We found that there was an increase of 57.1% in cases from 2019 to 2020, and a 72.7% decrease in cases filed from 2020 to 2021. Finally, there was a 33.3% increase of cases from 2021 to 2022.

School Related Traffic Cases Filed Per Year					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Cases Filed	2	7	11	3	4

School related Traffic Cases Filed Per Year



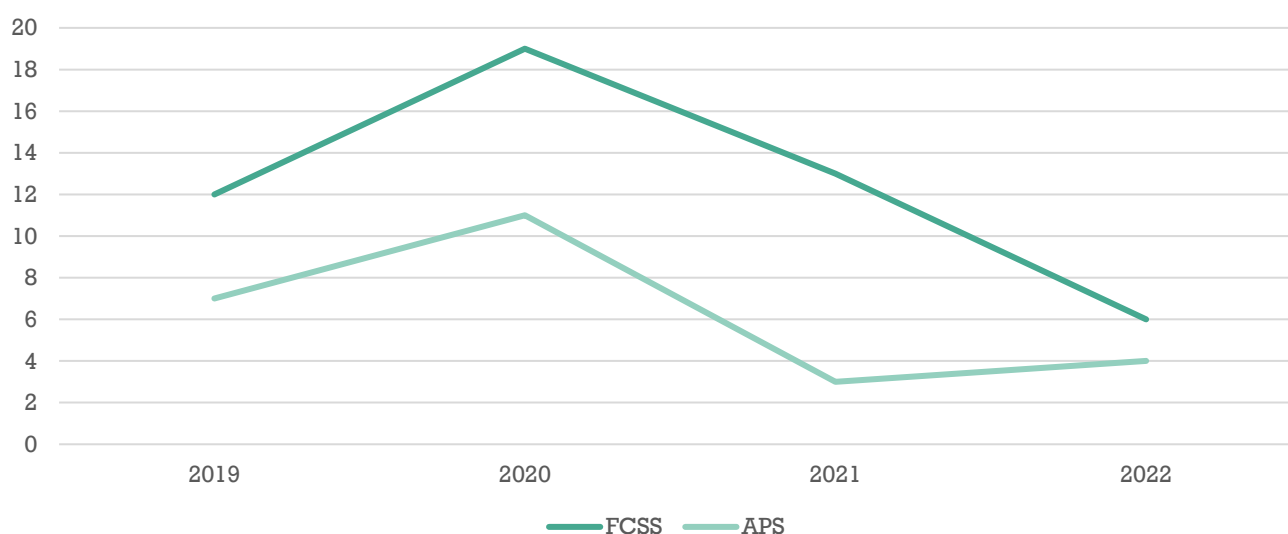
Data Source: JCATS Cases by Year and Month (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) Reporting

When comparing Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County Schools, the number of cases that have been filed has decreased as well from 2020 to 2022 by 68.4% in Fulton County Schools and 63.6% in Atlanta Public Schools.

Traffic Cases Filed Per Year by School Districts

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fulton County School System (FCSS)	12	19	13	6
Atlanta Public Schools (APS)	7	11	3	4

Traffic Cases Filed Per Year by School Districts



Data Source: JCATS Cases by Year and Month (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) Reporting

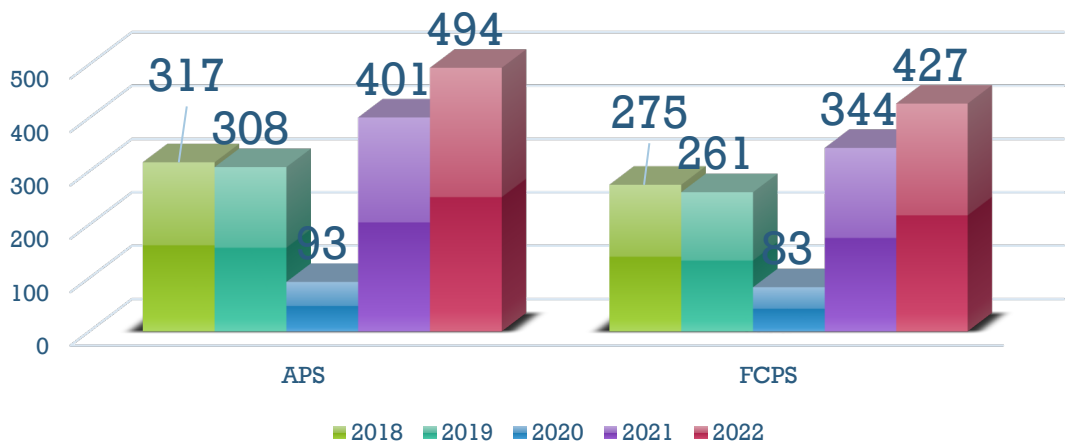
SCHOOL REPORTED - MOST SERIOUS CRIMES

Based on the data in JCATS from 2018 to 2022, the most serious school related crimes and the number of most serious offenses have varied. There were similar trends in both districts for all five years. In 2018 and 2019, both districts had a high number of Battery and Simple Battery charges. For the year 2020, along with Battery charges, Affray charges were very high. In 2021, Affray along with bringing weapons to school were at the high end of serious offenses. In the 2022 school year, there was a high number of Unknown charges for APS and FCSS as well as Affray, Simple Battery and bringing a Weapon to School.

In the year 2018, Fulton County Public Schools cases were 13% lower than Atlanta Public Schools. There was a 15% difference between the two districts in 2019. For 2020, there was a drastic decrease with both APS and FCSS because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. APS's cases lowered by 69.8% and FCSS decreased by 68.2%. In 2021, the most serious cases increased for both APS and FCSS than 2019. The differences in the districts were 14.2% at that time. The year 2022 has had the highest number of cases than the past five years with 494 serious cases for Atlanta Public Schools and 427 serious cases with Fulton County Public Schools, which is a 19% increase for both districts.

Delinquency by Most Serious Offense Per Year					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Atlanta Public Schools (APS)	317	308	93	401	494
Fulton County School System (FCSS)	275	261	83	344	427

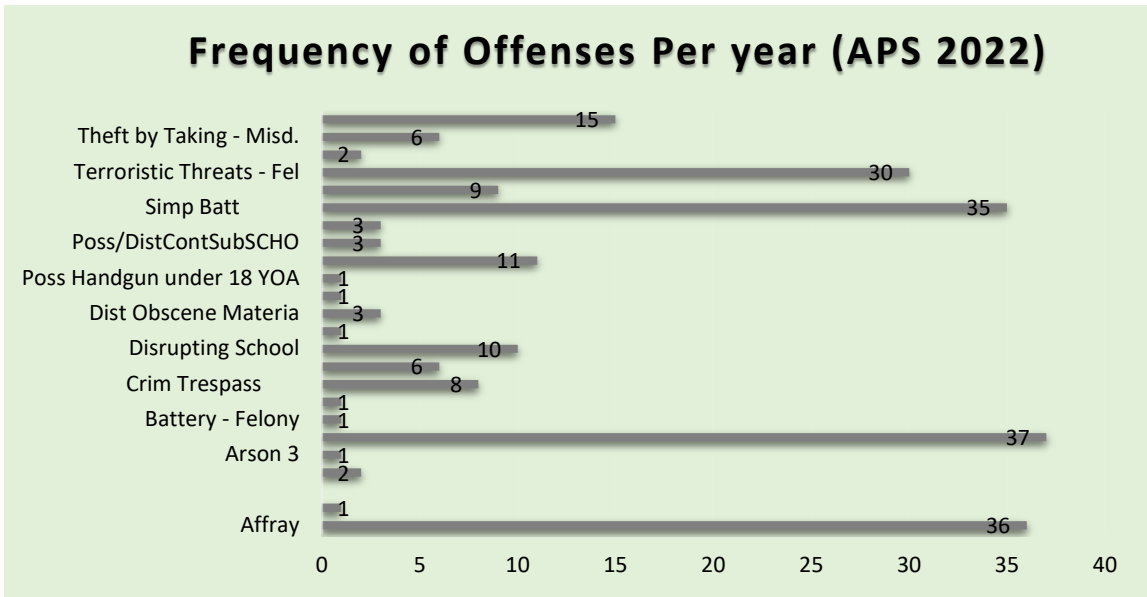
Delinquency by Most Serious Offense Per Year



Data Source: JCATS Cases by Year and Month (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, &2022) Reporting

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS (APS): SCHOOL REPORT - MOST FREQUENT CASES FILED BY SCHOOLS PER YEAR

The data for the most frequent cases filed by schools per year report is based on a calendar year (January - December), not school year (August -July). During 2022, the most frequent offenses in *Atlanta Public Schools (APS)* were: *Affray (36), Battery (37), Criminal Trespass (8), Disorderly Conduct (6), Disrupting School (10), Possession of a Handgun under 18 years of age (YOA) (1), Possession of Marijuana (11), Possession and Distribution of Controlled Substance in School (3), Robbery (3), Simple Battery (35), Simple Assault (9), Terroristic Threats (Felony)(30), Theft by Taking (Misd.)(6), and Weapon at School (15)*. The most frequent offenses at Hank Aaron Academy were *Battery (37), Affray (36), Simple Battery (35), and Terroristic Threats (Felony) (30)*.

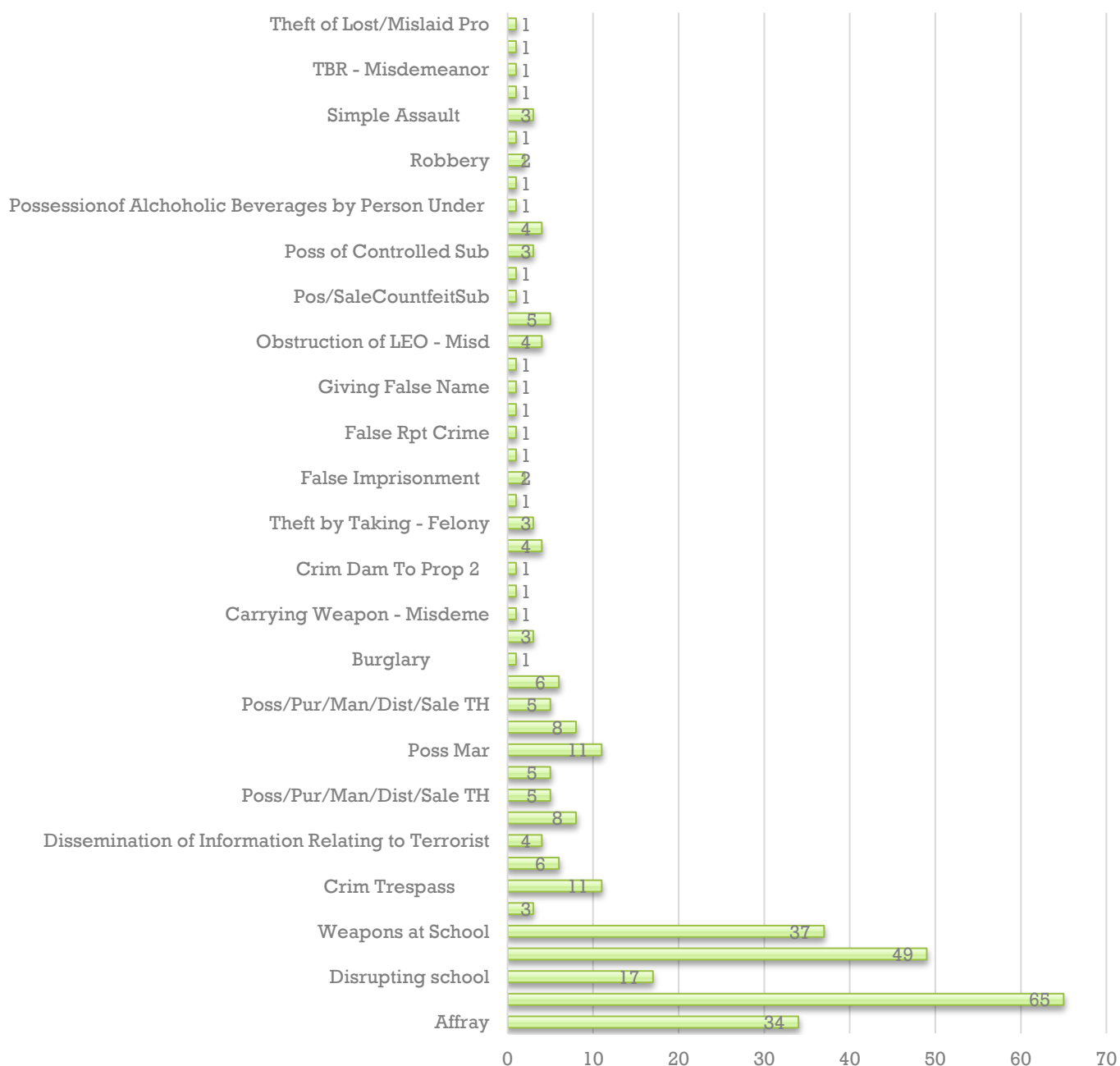


Data Source: JCATS Spreadsheet (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) Reporting

FULTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM (FCSS): SCHOOL REPORT - MOST FREQUENT CASES FILED BY SCHOOLS PER YEAR

An analysis of the Fulton County School System (FCSS) was conducted as well. During 2022, FCSS had various offences. The highest of the offenses were Battery (65), Simple Battery (49), Weapon at School (37) and Affray (34). These four offenses were significantly higher than other offenses.

Frequency of Offenses Per year (FCSS 2022)



Data Source: JCATS Spreadsheet (2022) Reporting

Juvenile Court Departments in Review

Behavioral Health

Shelly Spizuoco, LPC

Director of Behavioral Health



The Fulton **County Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Department** is dedicated to the prevention, early intervention and treatment of behavioral health related issues impacting youth and their families. Our licensed and/or certified clinicians deliver direct services, offer clinical support, and provide psychoeducation to children, families, court staff members and to community stakeholders via trainings, presentations, and by highlighting Children's Mental Health Awareness every year during the month of May.

What We Do

The Fulton County Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Department is dedicated to the prevention, early intervention and treatment of behavioral health related issues impacting youth and their families. Our licensed and/or certified clinicians deliver direct services, offer clinical support, and provide psychoeducation to children, families, court staff members and to community stakeholders via trainings, presentations, and by highlighting Children's Mental Health Awareness every year during the month of May.

The behavioral health team conducted court-ordered Trauma, Substance Use Disorder and Diagnostic Assessments, and facilitates clinical case staffings. Clinicians also coordinated and managed all other behavioral health evaluations including Psychiatric, Psychosexual, Psychological/Behavioral Health Evaluations (BHE), Competency, Designated Felony Act (DFA) and Bind-Over/Transfers.

Clinicians are the initial point of contact for all CHINS Ungovernable/Unruly referrals and conduct Behavioral Health Screenings to identify issues, suggest problem resolution strategies and recommend service/treatment options in collaboration with the CHINS Unit. Clinicians also served as case plan managers for children who have been deemed mentally incompetent to stand trial.

Furthermore, clinicians provided treatment and support services to participants in the Accountability Courts and attend all multidisciplinary team staffings and court hearings. Quite frequently, clinicians are called upon to provide expert testimony and provide consultation to attorneys, judges, probation officers and other court staff regarding clinical issues and concerns.

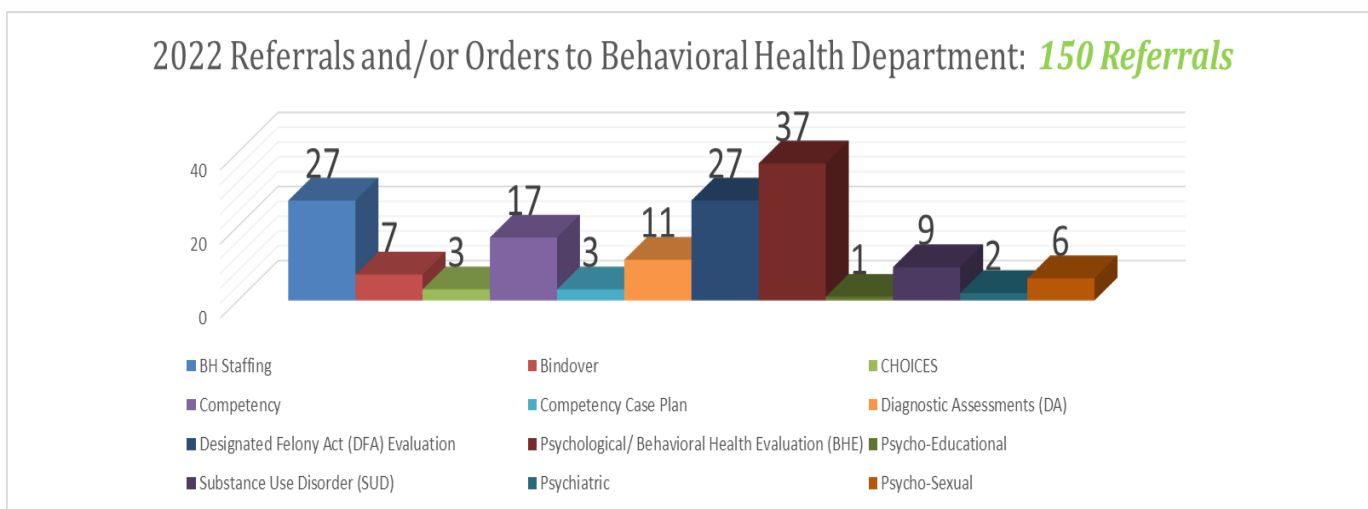
Ultimately, the Behavioral Health Department's goal is to destigmatized mental illness and empower families to seek and receive effective behavioral health services and support essential to their child's success in the home, at school and within the community.

The Behavioral Health Department conduct, coordinate and/or manage all behavioral health assessments ordered by the court. Following is a description of each evaluation:

- **Trauma Assessments:** addresses the subsequent effect/impact of traumatic events on an individual's functioning and their current trauma-related symptoms.
- **Substance Use Disorder Assessments:** determines whether an addiction is present, the extent of the addiction and whether there are co-occurring conditions.
- **Diagnostic Assessments:** provides a diagnosis and further clarity on current maladaptive behaviors as well as identify strengths, resources and suggest treatment recommendations.
- **Behavioral Health Staffing:** multidisciplinary team meeting to review case history and exchange information about the youth/family to help identify issues, suggest problem resolution strategies, and recommend service/treatment options.
- **Psychiatric/Medication Evaluation:** performed by a medical doctor (psychiatrist or pediatrician) who specializes in the pharmaceutical/biological treatments of psychiatric illnesses as well as the psychological and social aspects of the condition.
- **Psychosexual Evaluation:** designed to identify the level of risk for sexual and non-sexual recidivism; recommend types and intensity of interventions that will be most beneficial, including level of care (e.g., community versus more secure placement).
- **Psychological/Behavioral Health Evaluation (BHE):** conducted by a Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) or a private psychologist to gather information regarding the individual's background, intellectual functioning, personality functioning, diagnosis, and to provide treatment recommendations.
- **Competency Evaluation:** conducted by a DBHDD or private psychologist to assess whether an individual has present ability to understand judicial proceedings and one's situation in reference to the proceeding as well as to render assistance to one's defense attorney in the preparation and presentation of one's case in all adjudication, disposition, or transfer hearings.
- **Competency Case Plans:** when a child has been deemed not competent to stand trial, the Behavioral Health Department is responsible for developing and monitoring a Comprehensive Service Plan designed to provide treatment, habilitation, support and/or supervision services for a child in the least restrictive environment; the assigned clinician/case plan manager is also responsible for ensuring the child receives remediation services (if applicable) via a DBHDD staff member and schedules a re-evaluation (typically after six months) to determine if the child's competency has been remediated, continued remediation is needed, or whether a child is likely to remain incompetent to proceed for the foreseeable future.

- **Designated Felony Act (DFA) Evaluation:** when restrictive custody is contemplated, this evaluation is conducted by a DBHDD psychologist to gather information regarding the child's background, intellectual functioning, personality functioning and diagnosis to provide treatment recommendations.
- **Bind-Over/Transfer:** conducted by a DBHDD psychologist to provide an opinion as to whether the child is committable to an institution for the developmentally disabled or mentally ill as well as to gather information regarding the child's background, intellectual functioning, personality functioning and diagnosis to provide treatment recommendations.

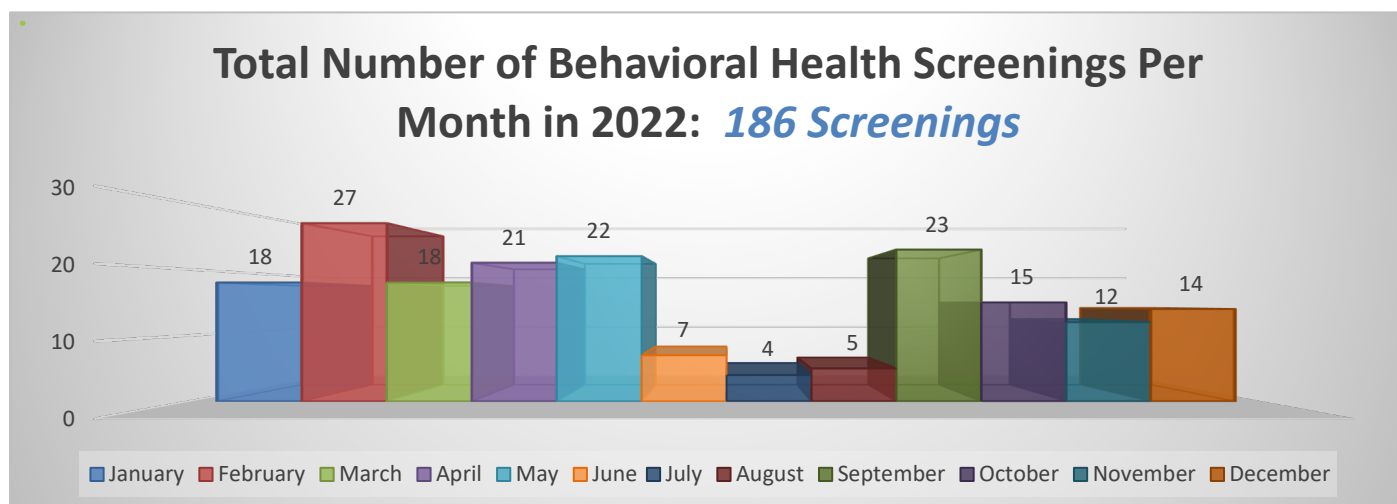
Behavioral Health conducted, coordinated, and/or managed all **150** behavioral health assessments ordered by the court:



Data Source: BH Reporting 2022 (Excel Spreadsheet)

CHINS REGISTRY/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

Behavioral Health served as the initial point of contact and conducted **186** Behavioral Health Screenings for children and families interested in participating in the CHINS Program:



Data Source: BH Reporting 2022 (Excel Spreadsheet)

Clerk's Office

Kimberly Wright, CPM

Clerk of Juvenile Court



The **Clerk's Office** is the official recordkeeper of the court and ensures all juvenile records are properly maintained from initiation to disposition, and thereafter in accordance with state record retention schedules. Additionally, the Clerk's Office collected fees and provided direct support to the court for hearings by providing notice and service, serving as the liaison between youth and families and the court, and facilitating resources for hearings.

What We Do

The Clerk of Juvenile Court is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the official court records. Under the Clerk's supervision the Clerk's Office is responsible for the following essential court operations, including:

- Aiding with facilitating transportation of youth between detention facilities and the courthouse.
- Initiating various new cases in JCATS.
- Coordinating interpreters for hearings and mediation.
- Ensuring service of parties for upcoming hearings.
- Facilitating access to technology for families to attend virtual hearings.
- Maintaining the official records of the court.
- Managing all incoming calls to the court.
- Providing administrative support to judges.
- Providing transcripts of hearings.
- Run Publications per courtroom orders for service.
- Scheduling various court hearings.

In addition to the essential court operations, the Clerk's Office is responsible for the following areas within the Clerk's Office:

COURT OPERATIONS SPECIALISTS (RECORDS DEPARTMENT)

Court Operations Specialists served a dual role as the primary points of contact (in-person, by phone, and via email) for inquiries about existing cases and providing courtroom support through file

maintenance. The team strived to provide customers, both internal and external, with a superior level of service and a response to inquiries within 24 hours of receipt. The team also assists court users navigating the virtual hearing process.

File maintenance and court preparation

duties include ensuring parties are served and/or notified of upcoming hearings; pulling and preparing files for court; completing subsequent action ordered by the court; distributing documents to parties; and notifying other departments of subsequent action ordered by the court.

Beginning December 2022 Court Operation Specialists took on the responsibility of ensuring orders are processed timely.

JUDICIAL CASE MANAGERS

Judicial Case Managers (JCMs) are responsible for managing court calendars and caseloads for an assigned judge. Their responsibilities include ensuring orders are processed timely; coordinating resources (e.g., interpreters, court reporters, etc.) for hearings; tracking the scheduling of cases to ensure compliance with statutory timelines; scheduling hearings; notifying parties of hearings; and serving as the liaison between court personnel and judicial staff.

In December 2022 Judicial Case Managers assigned to a courtroom transitioned to Judicial staff. The Clerk's Office staffs four Floating Judicial Case Managers. The Floating Judicial Case Managers provided coverage when an assigned Judicial Case Manager was not available to attend court and provide support for the assigned courtroom and judge; covered detention and traffic hearings; and worked on special projects in the Clerk's Office.

INVESTIGATOR/PROCESS SERVER

The Investigator/Process Server served petitions and summons and process to

families throughout Fulton County, which stretches over 70 miles, including family members and youth in the custody of law enforcement.

2022 Service Attempts made by the Investigator/Process Server

Perfected Service	1,199
Service Attempts	4,941
Non-established Service	1,646

Perfected Service: The Process Server successfully served (notified in person) an individual of a filing and/ or upcoming hearing.

Service Attempt: The Process Server attempted to serve (notify in person) an individual of a filing and/or upcoming hearing but were unable to contact the person and/or a resident of the home. Typically, three service attempts are made.

Non-established: After numerous attempts, the Process Server was unable to successfully serve the individual and/or a resident of the home.

COURT REPORTER

The Court Reporter is responsible for attending court proceedings at the request of the judge and serving as the official recorder of the hearing. After hearings, the court reporter may be required to prepare verbatim transcripts of proceedings, at the request of a party or by judge's order. The court reporter attends in-person and virtual hearings.

INTAKE UNIT & COMPLAINT ROOM

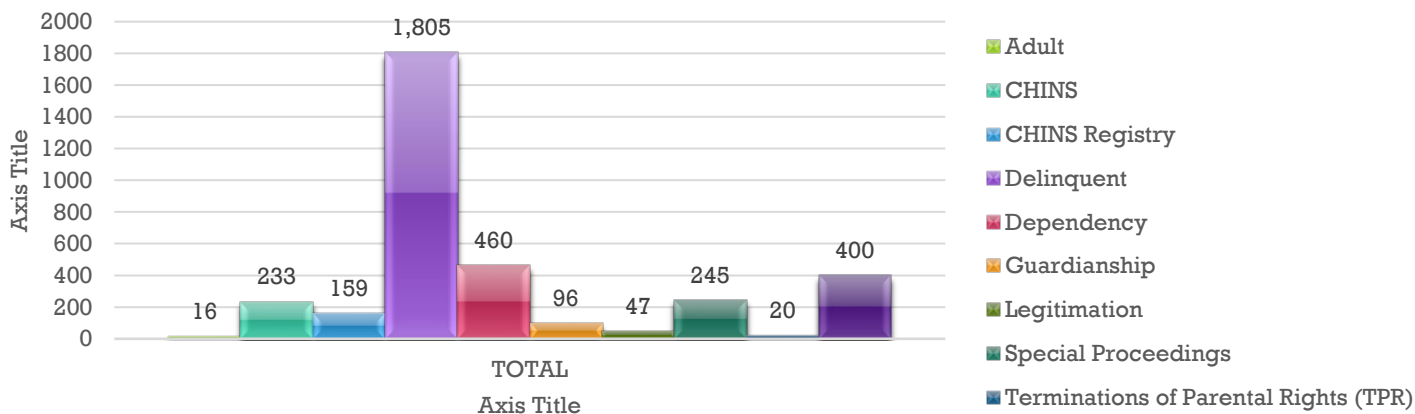
The Intake Unit operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays that are observed by the Fulton County Board of Commissions (BOC). The BOC is the governing body for all Fulton County Departments. The Intake Unit is the initial entry point and foundation for cases entering Fulton County Juvenile Court. Intake conducts detention assessments to make detention decisions; processes incoming dependency paperwork; initiates all cases for the court; tracks cases that are routed to diversion programs; tracks detained youth for release; maintains the transport list for youth; and oversees Interstate Compact Matters (youth that have been located outside of their residential state and need to be returned home).

The Complaint Room operates Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm. The Complaint Room staff provides assistance to the public, including families seeking to initiate various cases in Juvenile Court. These cases include Dependency (DP), Child in Need of Services (CHINS), and/or inquiring about resources available to them through the court. The following are all case types filed in the Juvenile Court, Clerk’s Office:

- **(AD)Adult:** Case numbers are generated when a Judge issues a Rule Nisi for an adult. Rule Nisi’s are issued by the Judge and served by Sheriff’s Department, requiring an adult to appear in court.
- **(CHINS)Child in Need of Services:** Child who is found to need care, guidance, counseling, supervision, treatment, or rehabilitation. Matters involving ungovernable children, truancy, curfew violations, possession of alcoholic beverage, and runaways.
- **(CR)CHINS Registry:** Matters that are CHINS cases and handled through an informal process where families are required to receive services.
- **(DL)Delinquency:** Matters involving an act (or charge) designated a crime, including detention hearings, probation violations and probation revocations.
- **(DP)Dependency:** Matters that involve allegations of abandonment, neglect and/or abuse, educational neglect, guardianships, legitimations, related dependency motions, and termination of parental rights.
- **(GR)Guardianship:** This type of case is initiated with a dependency complaint and court is petitioned to gain custody of a youth.
- **(LG) Legitimation:** Filed to establish paternity of father. Also considered part of dependency case.
- **(SP)Special Proceedings:** Cases that are not criminal acts. These include application for marriage, application to enlist in the Army. A request to unseal records, cases transferred to juvenile court to determine or investigate custody and support of a child.
- **(TPR) Termination of Parental Rights:** Case filed seeking to terminate parents’ rights. This also falls under dependency cases.
- **(TR)Traffic:** Matters involving non-delinquency traffic citations for youth under the age of 17.

During 2022, there were a total of 3,481 various cases filed in the Clerk’s Office. Delinquency cases are the largest case type filed. This case type accounts for 51.85% of the cases filed, followed by Dependency (13.21%) and Traffic (11.49%) cases. The following chart represents all cases filed in 2022:

Cases Filed By Case Type 2022



Data Source: JCATS Report – Performance (Case Filed Per Type)

Youth Detained reflects the number of youth detained either as a result of the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) being used and it being determined that the youth was a risk to the community or him/herself or detained as a result of a court order. Note, the DAI is only used when the Clerk's Office is contacted by a law enforcement officer seeking detention of a youth.

CLERK'S OFFICE 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022, the Clerk's Office continued its use of the electronic filing process, which was initially implemented in response to the pandemic. After seeing the response and need for ongoing electronic filing, the Clerk's Office formed a team of Clerk's office staff to create flowcharts for electronic filing through JCATS. The team attended multiple sessions to breakdown the process of various court filings (e.g., Motions, Petitions, Initiating Cases, etc.) to determine the flow of the work throughout the electronic filing process. Below are a few notable mentions:

- Continued working with Canyon Solutions to improve functions of the case management system, making processes more seamless and efficient for staff.
- Tester for Fulton County Dashboard. The Clerk's Office was among the first group for Juvenile Court to have a Dashboard created. We worked with Fulton County's County Manager's Office, Strategy & Performance and Court Administration, Quality Assurance & Data department to capture vital information for the Clerk's Office.

Court & Family Services

Yolanda Johnson, Esquire

Director of Court & Family Services



The **Court and Family Services Department** oversees the Guardian ad Litem, Educational Advocates, the Citizen Review Panel, and the Mediation Program. Combined, the division provides and manages services to qualifying children and families in support of Fulton County Juvenile Court's mission.

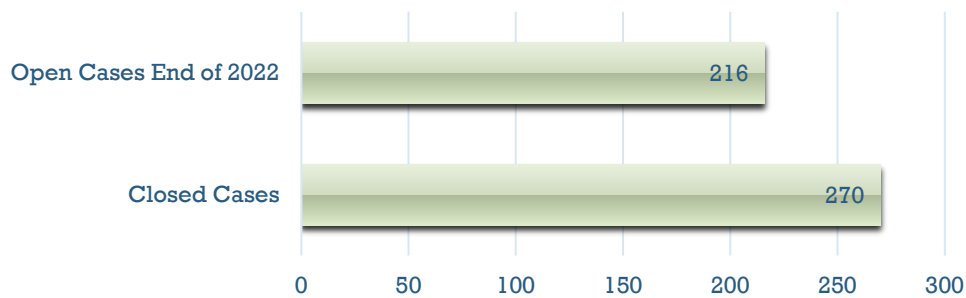
What We Do

The mission of the Court and Family Services department is to promote and provide for the safety, well-being, and permanence of children and their families. Court and Family Services is comprised of four (4) entities: Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), Education Advocates, Mediation, and Citizen's Review Panel. Together, they uphold Fulton County Juvenile Court's overall mission. These sub-units make collaborative efforts to gather, provide, and manage quality resources to eligible children and families.

THE OFFICE OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM

In Court and Family Services, a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) is a non-attorney professional representative appointed by a judge for infants, minors, and mentally incompetent persons and delinquent youth, all of whom generally need help protecting their rights and best interests. GALs assist the court in determining the best interests and circumstances of these individuals and their families. The primary focus is maintaining family permanency by doing investigations, meeting with family members and children in their homes, schools, service providers, hospitals, and anywhere else these individuals may be. While continuing through the pandemic, GALs were able to maintain communications virtually while some resumed some in-person functions.

Cases Assigned to Guardian ad Litem (GAL) in 2022



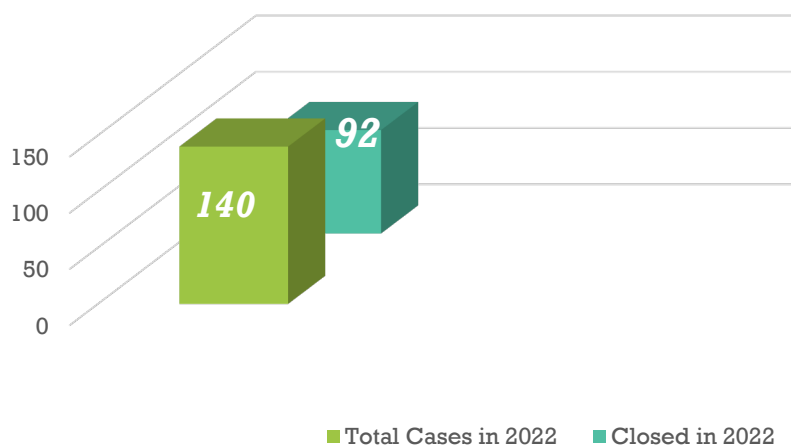
Data Source: JCATS Reporting, 5th of each month, Cumulative reporting
Date Range: January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

*In 2022, GALs were assigned to **486** cases total. Of those cases, **270** were closed successfully. A successful closure means that the GALs is no longer needed; this may be due to successful completion of permanency plans, youth cases being administratively moved, and/or finding successful placements for children.*

EDUCATION ADVOCATES

Fulton County Juvenile Court's Education Advocates continued working diligently and consistently through the pandemic. Despite major changes in operations, Education Advocates assisted families and their students in education, support, guidance, and resources. The Education Advocates work to reduce recidivism and increase academic success by working to ensure that court-involved children are receiving the special educational services afforded to them under the law. Education Advocates also help ensure children have access to public schools' services when there are challenges presented to the youth and their families.

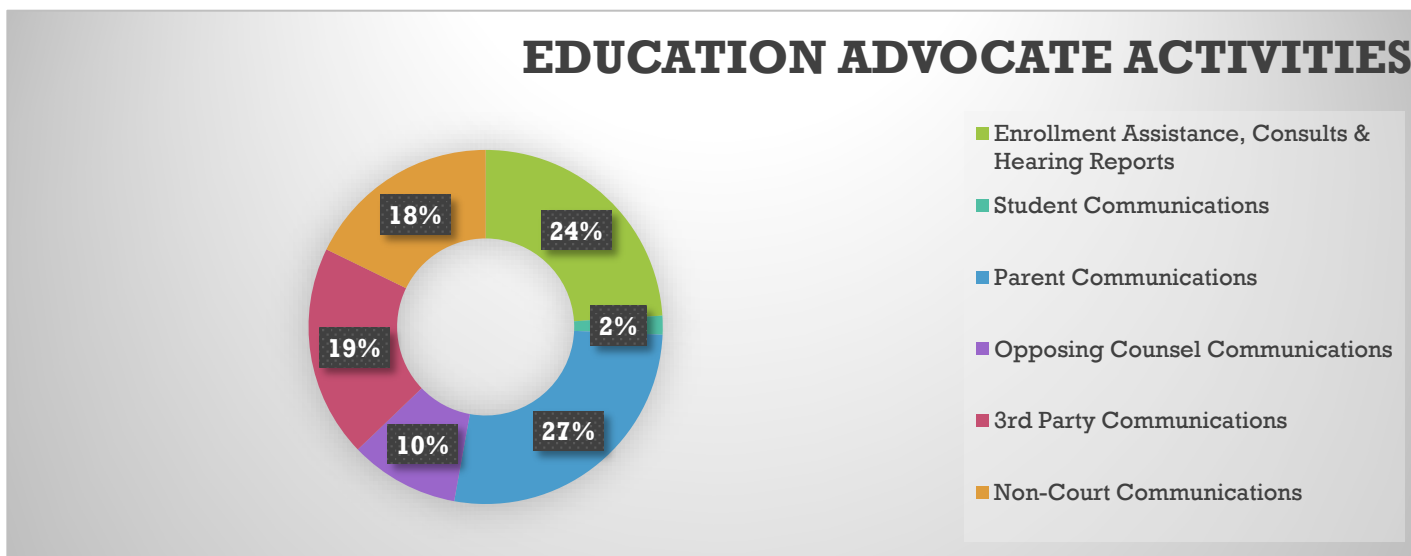
Education Advocate Cases 2022



Data Source: Educational Advocate Repository Report, 30th of each month, Cumulative reporting

In 2022, Education Advocates were assigned to **140** cases of which **92** cases were closed successfully. Working these cases requires attending multiple hearings, dispute resolution, helping to develop IEP Individualized Education Plan(IEP), attending Individualized Education

Plan(IEP) and Student Study Team (SST) meetings, attending tribunals, record reviews, and assisting with school enrollment. Additional activities include school visits, and communication with parents, students, child attorneys, schools, and healthcare professionals. This year, in addition to attending court hearings, school staffings, SST and IEP meetings and record reviews, Education Advocates completed **14,054** activities.



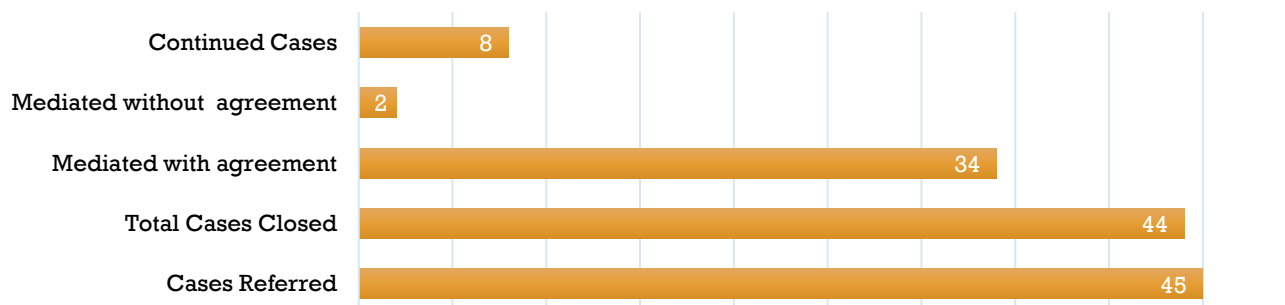
Data Source: Educational Advocate JCATS Repository Report.
Date Report Ran: January 01, 2022, to December 31, 2022

MEDIATION

As an alternative to the adversarial process, mediation seeks to resolve issues among parties with a certified mediator. As a collaborative effort, Mediation, the Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Clerk's Office, and the Probation Department grant the opportunity to resolve matters by providing parties with the expertise of a certified mediator to develop and reach an agreement that will address the issues presented by the parties. This process ultimately reduces the number of cases referred to the court.

Relative to dependency cases, Mediation is also used as an alternative to formal Dependency adjudication by helping to resolve certain conflicts such as termination of guardianships, family reunification, custody, and visitation.

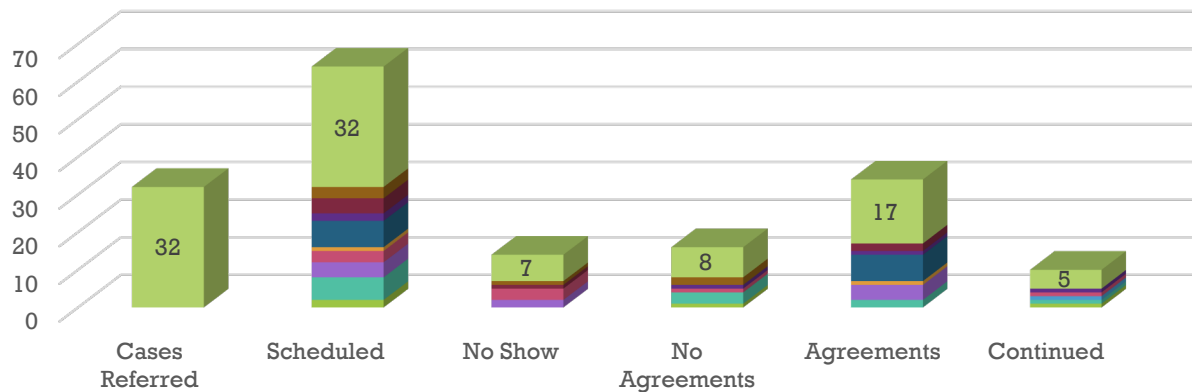
Delinquency Cases Referred to Mediation



Data Source: Justice Center of Atlanta, Inc. 30th of each month, Cumulative reporting

In 2022, the Mediation unit received approximately **85** referrals. As a free service to the citizens of Fulton County, we have successfully mediated **50** agreements including delinquency and dependency cases, resulting in reduced costs and Court calendar. In addition, **76** cases were successfully closed/sealed (**14** carried over from 2021).

Dependency Cases Referred To Mediation

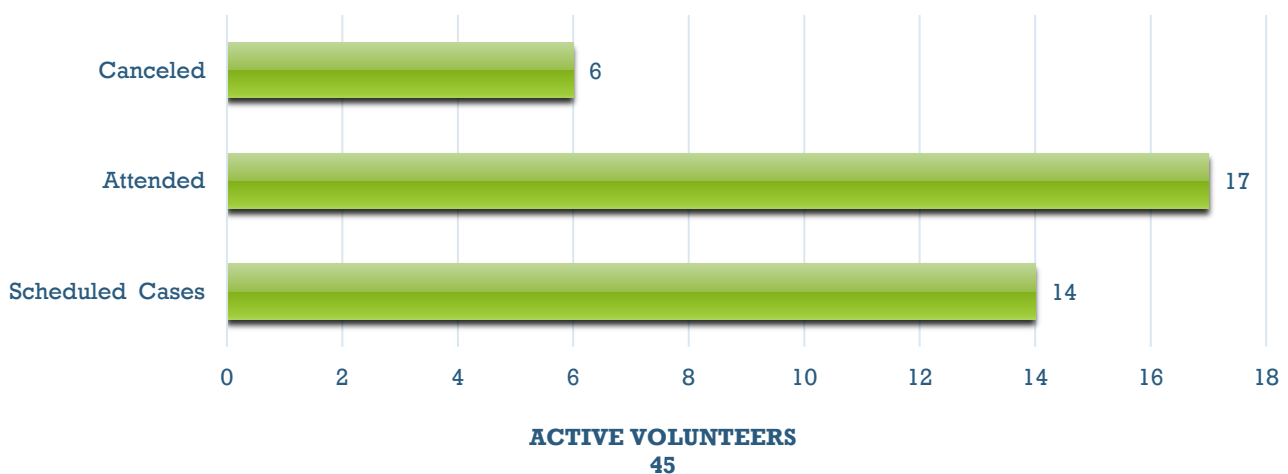


Report Name: Justice Center of Atlanta, Inc. 30th of each month, Cumulative reporting

THE CITIZEN'S REVIEW PANEL

The Citizen Review Panel assists the Court in determining the most appropriate permanency plan for children in foster care. The Citizen Review Panel utilizes trained, multidisciplinary volunteers to conduct legally mandated reviews of the status and welfare of children placed in the legal custody of Fulton County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) by the Juvenile Court. Panel reviews are scheduled within **four** months of the initial court review and every **six** months thereafter. In 2022, panel review operations were suspended due to the ongoing pandemic. At the end of 2022, **45 volunteers** remained connected to the program. In 2022, The Citizen Review Panel began training volunteers to participate in virtual panels.

The Citizen Review Panel Cases 2022



Report Name: JCATS Reporting, 30th of each month, Cumulative reporting

Date Report Ran: January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Date Range: January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Probation Services

Cassandra Hines

Director of Probation Services



The primary purpose for **Fulton County Juvenile Probation Department** is rehabilitation, restorative justice, and public safety while the youth remain in the least restrictive community setting.

While on probation a youth is assigned a Probation Officer to supervise their compliance with the terms of their court orders as well as advocate for services to address the need for rehabilitation. Fulton County Juvenile Probation Services Department utilizes the balanced approach to rehabilitation which equally focuses on brokering services and resources for the individual youth's needs and holding the youth accountable for behaviors that place the community at risk. Our mission is to provide positive transformative supervision approaches using best practices that will successfully align youth and families with appropriate evidence based supportive services.

What We Do

When a youth is adjudicated for the commission of a delinquent offense and is afforded the opportunity to remain in the community as opposed to being detained in a youth detention facility, the most frequently ordered disposition is that he or she be placed on an order of probation. The primary goal of probation supervision is to address identified risk factors of delinquent behavior, barriers to prosocial function, and to build or restore deficient competencies which may have led to such behavior. Equally important is the probation division's ability to restore any loss suffered by victims of the youth's offense and to reduce the likelihood of future behaviors that abolish civil order and peace.

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT UNITS

The Probation Department's case assignment model of supervision assigns all "non-designated felony" offenders to one of three community-based units of supervision. Youth placed on Probation for misdemeanor and felony offenses are assigned to a Community Based Probation Officer based on the zip code of the child's permanent place of residence. The Probation Department also has specialty units to address the unique circumstances and needs of youth.

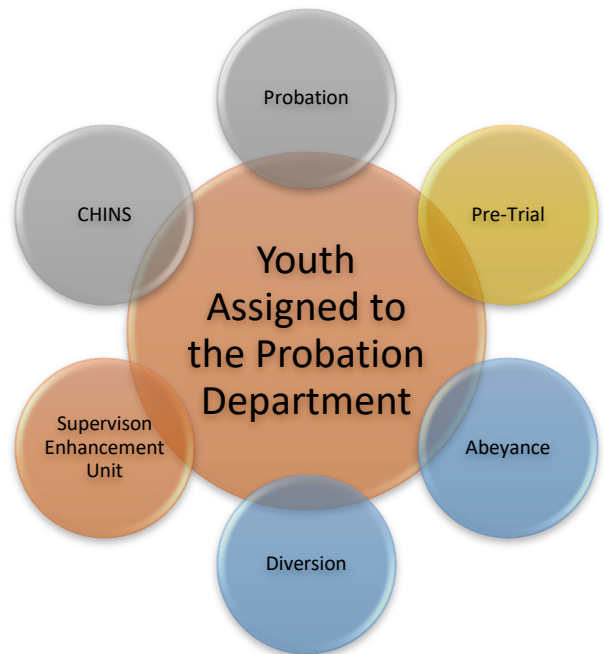
Assessment Classification and Transition Unit (A.C.T.): The ACT Unit is the initial point of contact for youth and families referred to the probation department via delinquent adjudication and order of the court. The unit also conducts MAYSI-2 assessments to determine any underlying mental health issues, YASI Risk and Needs Assessment that may affricate or mitigate the case and help determine referral services. The ACT Unit Probation Officers also serve as court personnel/liasons on matters of behavioral health referrals, Alternatives to Detention, all case matters of abeyance, and cases requiring bind-over or dispositional hearing reports for youth not previously on probation awaiting dispositional hearings.

Region 1: Provides courtesy supervision for youth residing in Georgia whose probation originated in another state. This Unit communicates directly with the Interstate Compact for Juveniles Office to ensure the case is supervised appropriately. Region 1 also handles cases that transfer to Fulton County from other areas in Georgia as well as youth residing in the Central part of Fulton County. Cases originating in Fulton County and assigned to this unit have a low or moderate risk level.

Region 2: Community Based Region 2 is responsible for supervising youth in the southern portion of the city of Atlanta and Fulton County. This unit covers the largest area in the county. Cases assigned to this unit have a low or moderate risk level.

Region 3: Community Based Region 3 is responsible for supervising cases in North Fulton County and supervises a diverse population and covers from Bankhead all the way to Milton. This unit supervises Spanish speaking youths and families. Cases assigned to this unit have a low or moderate risk level.

Diversion Unit: This unit manages cases for youth whose complaint is diverted from the courts, thus avoiding a court record. The unit oversees the “First Time Offenders”



Program, referrals to Restorative Conference Atlanta, and Law Classes that meet monthly. This Diversion unit also manages Abeyance cases pending the next court hearing.

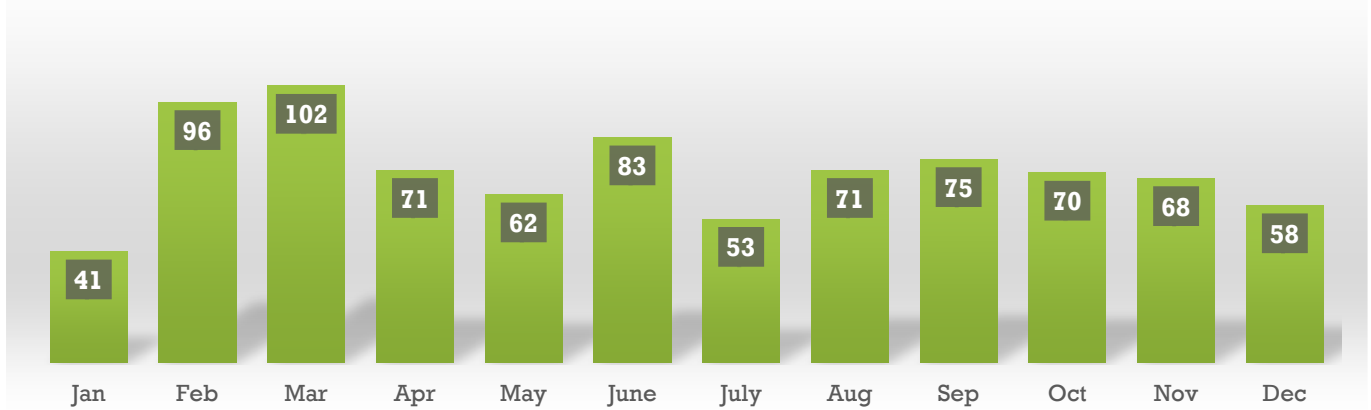
IMPACT Unit: The Intensive Monitoring Probation and Community Treatment (IMPACT) Unit's target populations are youth with moderate to high risk levels and adjudicated for designated felony A & B offenses with Juvenile Court. Examples of these offenses are aggravated assault & battery, robbery, aggravated sexual batter, “smash and grab” burglary, etc. This Unit provides the most intensive level of supervision and community treatment and works with SEU to ensure high risk youth are monitored closely in the community.

Supervision Enhancement Unit (SEU): The primary purpose of the unit is to monitor youth in the community. They serve pre-dispositional cases and intensive cases with high risk levels.

Detention/Court Security Unity: This unit is responsible for the custody of youth while awaiting in-person court hearings. Youth transported to court for Behavioral Health Assessments can be held in the detention area. This unit oversees the referrals to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Alternative to Detention Services.

Placed on Probation: Number of youths placed on probation or supervision with the Department: (this number includes cases transferred out of the county after adjudication) per month in 2022.

Placed on Probation: 850

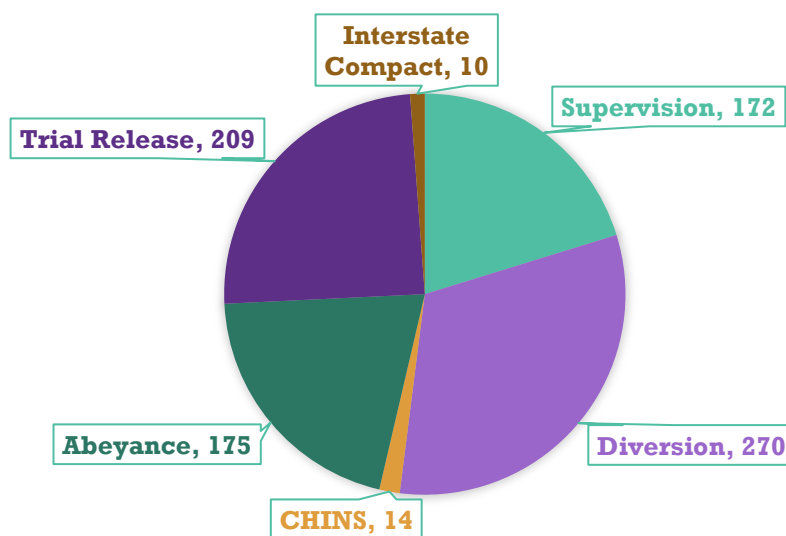


Data Source: JCATS "Supervision Placed on Report, 2nd of each month, Cumulative Reporting
Date Range: January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

SUPERVISION CASE TYPES:

Youth involved with Fulton County Juvenile Court are afforded re-entry services that support their different case types and are supervised in the Probation Department based on monitoring options available for their case types. The Probation Department oversees the following:

Supervision Case Types: 850



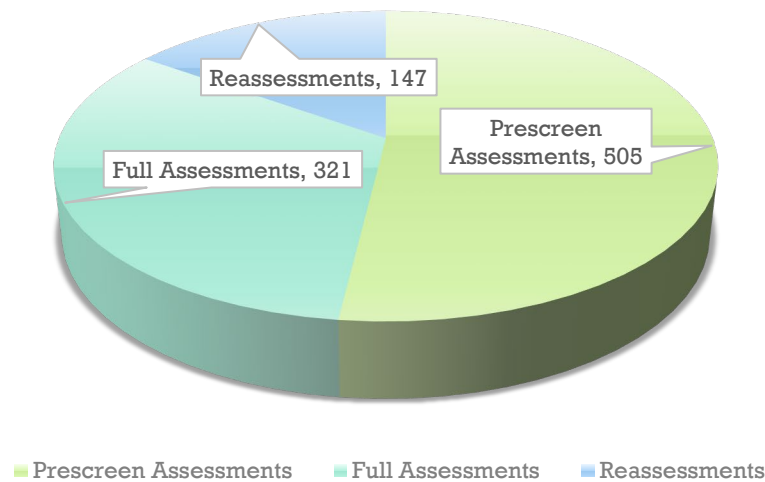
Data Source: JCATS "Supervision Placed on Report", 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting. Court orders from each case. Monthly data from Diversion Unit's cases received through Intake. Interstate Compact "transfer-in" numbers from the PO Supervisor's spreadsheet based on the transfer packet received from the Clerk's Intake Office. Interstate Compact "transfer-out" of state data comes from the PO Supervisor's spreadsheet based on the court orders giving approval to transfer the case to another state
Date Range: January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

ASSESSMENTS

YOUTH ASSESSMENT AND SCREENING INSTRUMENT (YASI)

Fulton County Juvenile Court's Probation Department implements the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), to identify and address the risks and needs of youth on supervised probation. Using this evidence-based risk and needs instrument ensures responsiveness to youths' individual needs and focuses services on reducing their risk to re-offend.

YASI Assessments Total - 973

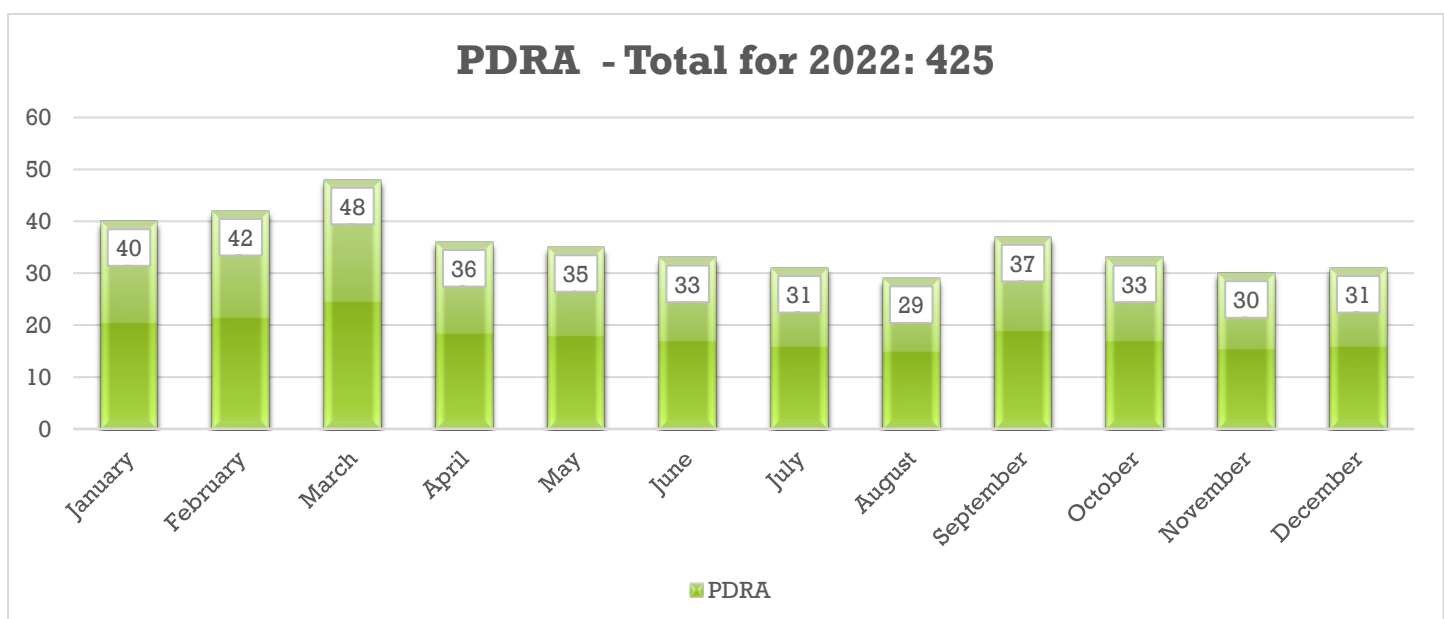


Data Source: Orbis Partners, Incorporated – Data extracted from “Statistical Reports” in the CaseWorks software system.

PRE-DISPOSITION RISK ASSESSMENT (PDRA)

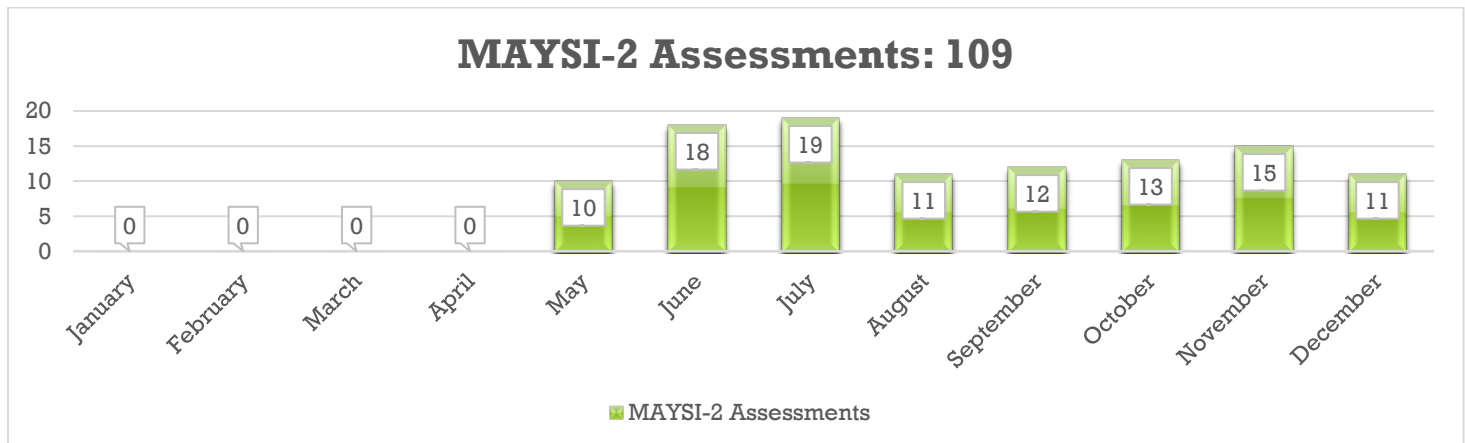
A Pre-Disposition Risk Assessment is completed on youth who have been adjudicated delinquent. The Probation Department uses this state mandated PDRA to identify a youth's risk to reoffend in the community. The risk will drive decisions on the level of supervision assigned to the youth and also, whether the youth's risk level jeopardizes community safety in such a way that the youth should be detained or committed to the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.

PDRA - Total for 2022: 425



Data Source: JCATS “Assessment Section” Reporting, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting. **Date Range:** January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

The **MAYSI-2** is a brief Behavioral Health Screening tool designed especially for Juvenile Justice programs and facilities. It identifies youths 12 through 17 years old who may have important, pressing behavioral health needs. Its primary use is in juvenile probation, diversion programs, and intake in juvenile detention or corrections. At Fulton County Juvenile Court, the MAYSI-2 assessment is conducted on all youth who are placed on court ordered supervision. The Probation Department received licenses for the Assessment and Classification Transition Unit, (ACT) to use the assessment as a “front-end” tool to provide referrals for treatment early in the probation cycle. During the months of May through December of 2022, the Probation Department’s ACT Unit completed **109** assessments that helped determine mental health services for probated youth.

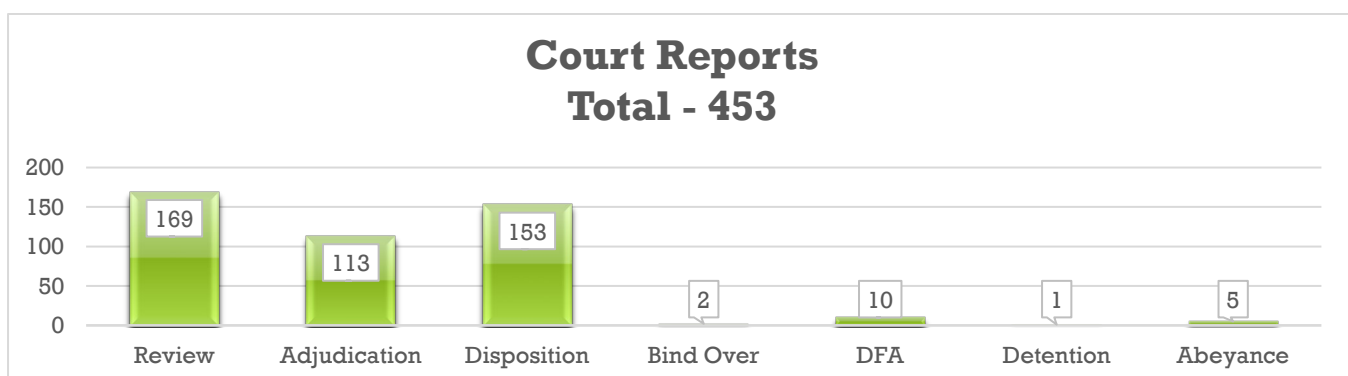


Data Source: CaseWorks Reporting, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting. **Date Range:** May 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022 (Probation Services department did not acquire licensures until May 2022). MAYSI-2 CaseWorks – data was extracted from the “Reports” section.

REPORTS

Court Reports

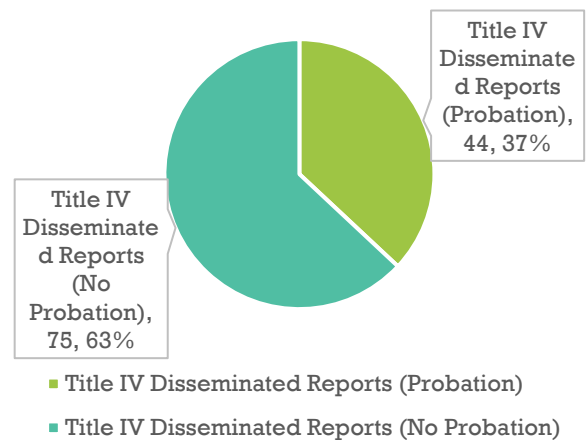
A court report is an investigative document that provided background information, behavioral information, and assessment outcomes on youth involved with the court. These reports are critical because they assist the Judge with making an informed decision about the needs of the youth when disposing of a case. Probation Officers are responsible for writing investigative reports in several different formats based on the calendared court hearing types. In the calendar year, 2022, the Probation Department submitted **453** reports. The breakdown of the court report types are as follows:



Data Source: JCATS Docket Event Listing – Orders, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting. **Date Range:** January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

The Fulton County Juvenile Probation Department collaborated with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to investigate compliancy with the Title IV Contrary to the Welfare of the Child Act. During this collaboration the Fulton County Juvenile Probation Department disseminated information on **119** youth. Out of the **119** youth, **75** youth were not court responsible and **44** youth were court-involved. For each court involved youth, a report was disseminated detailing whether it would be “contrary” to the best interest of the youth’s welfare to release them from detention based on their behavior on probation, their new offense, and their behavior in the community, home, school.

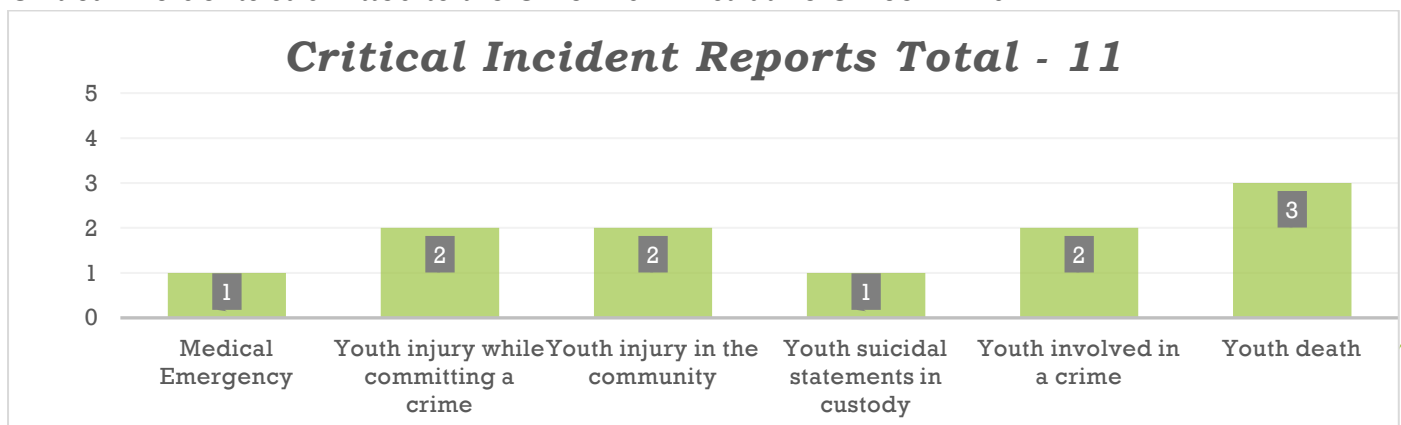
Title IV Disseminated Reports for 2022: 119



Data Source: Internal Reporting, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting. Qualitative Data Request requests from the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice(DJJ) Title IV Department. JCATS information detailing whether the youth is on probation. **Date Range:** January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

CRITICAL INCIDENTS

A critical incident is defined in Fulton County Juvenile Court Policy number FCJC 405-600-2, as a traumatic event, involving a personal or professional threat, which evokes extreme stress, fear or injury creating a significant risk of substantial or serious harm to the physical or mental health, safety, or wellbeing of a person including a youth, an employee or member of the public. The purpose of these reports is to expeditiously provide information to the Chief Administrative Officer as an avenue to keep him or her informed of any incident occurring within the court, regarding court staff, or youth on probation, that is considered noteworthy for legal purposes or newsworthy. It is vital to share this information as soon as possible to address any remaining issues arising from the critical incident and to share accurate information with the Judges, County Officials, and/or news media, as necessary and appropriate. There was a total of 11 Critical Incidents submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer in 2022.

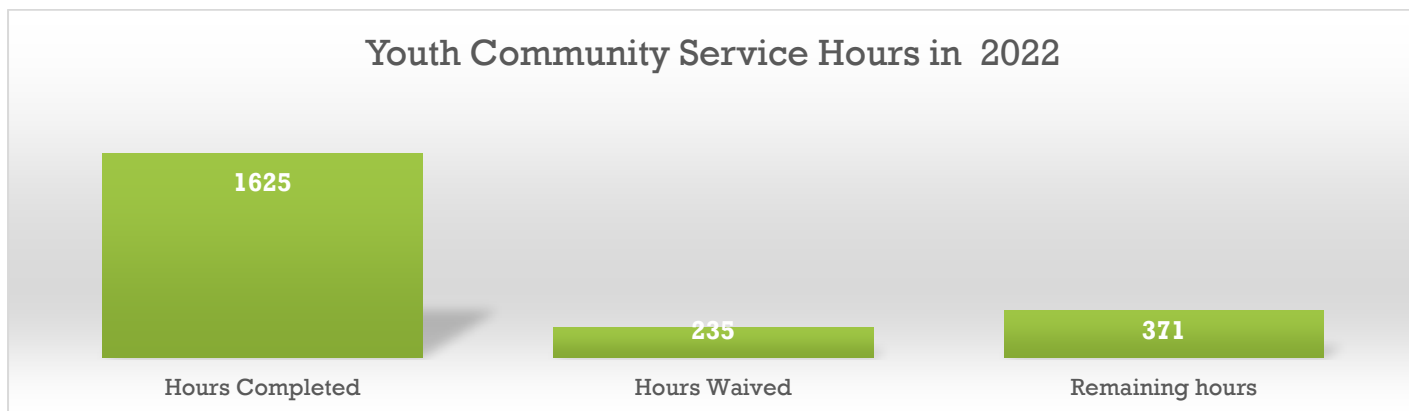


Data Source: Critical Incident Reports, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting
Date Range: January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Youth involved with Fulton County Juvenile Court are afforded re-entry services that support their different types of case and are supervised in the Probation Department based on monitoring options available for their case types. The Probation Department oversee the following:

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is sanctioned work performed by a youth for the benefit of the community. The emphasis of community service is not on punishment but strives to place the accountability on the offender. This is another Restorative Justice component in the rehabilitation goal for probation supervision.

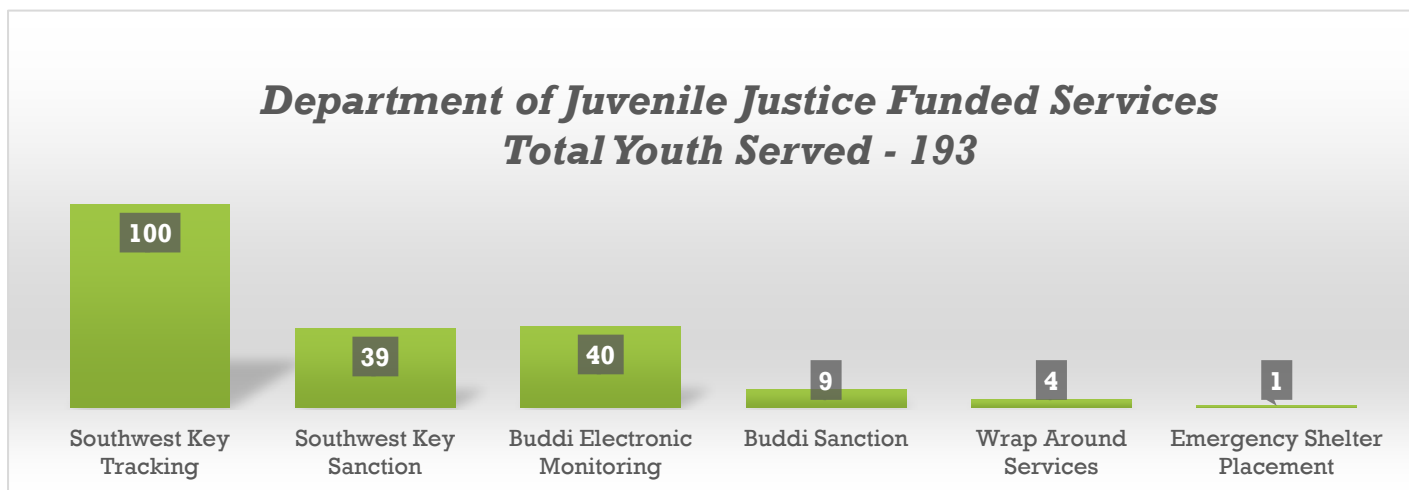


Data Source: JCATS Reporting, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting. JCATS Reports - Community Service Ordered Details. JCATS Reports - Community Service Transactions. **Date Range:** January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

SERVICES OFFERED

Alternatives to Detention

Alternative to Detention (ATD) services help reduce the number of youths detained in secure facilities. Fulton County Juvenile Court's use of Alternative to Detention services support the evidence-based principles of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) to increase opportunities for youth to participate in community-based options rather than detention. ATD services are also used as a graduated sanction or for probated youth who are not compliant with probation expectations and/or court orders.

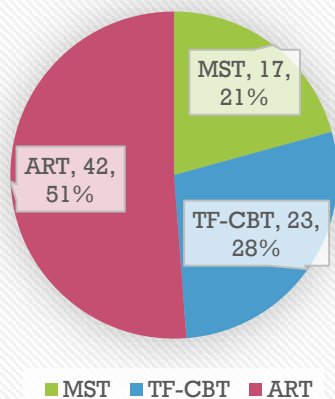


Data Source: JCATS Reporting, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting. Court orders submitted to the Detention staff ordering services. Sanction Requests form submitted from the Probation Officers requesting the sanction type.

Date Range: January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Probation Grant Funded Referrals

Started: January 2022
Ended: July 2022



The Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program (JJIG) aims to develop and sustain programs that address the criminogenic needs of youth while mitigating risk of future offending. The JJIG offers funding and technical support for a set of nationally recognized treatment programs including Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Aggression Replacement Training (ART), and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). Probation Officers made 82 referrals for probation youth from January 2022 through June 2022 when the grant-funds were offered.

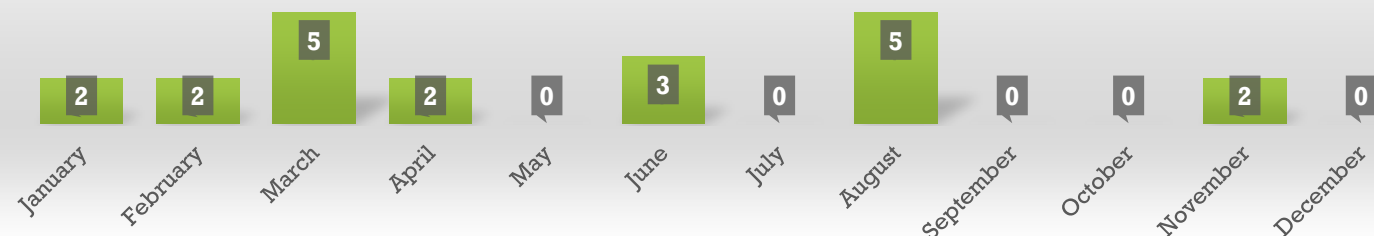
Data Source: JCATS Reporting, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting. Referrals submitted to the Preservation Unit from the Probation Department. Data was also captured from the Probation Units' monthly reports. JCATS "Resource Requests" to check the treatment services entered as "started". **Date Range:** January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteers play a vital role in improving justice involved youth lives in Fulton County. The primary goal of the court's volunteer program is to strengthen the court-community partnership and to enhance the public's confidence in the court system through direct participation of community members. The Probation Department had **two** community partners who consistently volunteered their time to facilitate workshops for youth whose cases were diverted from court. Workshops included Drug Awareness and the First Time Offender Program for a total of **21** volunteer hours.

Volunteer Hours

■ Volunteer Hours

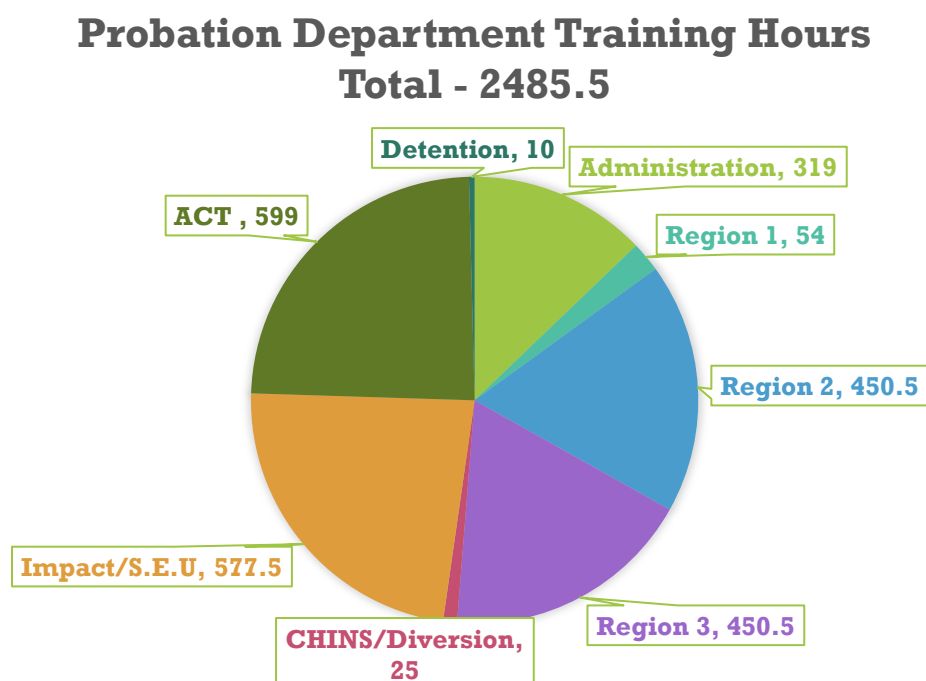


Data Source: Internal Reporting, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting

- Probation Supervisor spreadsheet to calculate the program hours and the volunteer hours for each program.
- Diversion Unit Supervisor's monthly report. **Date Range:** January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Training is critical for juvenile justice professionals. Educating probation staff on the various home, community, and school factors that contribute to or cause status behaviors will equip them to contribute to and implement a system that tailors approaches to the specific needs of each child and family. Probation staff obtained over **2,000+** training hours in 2022. Staff were trained in the following topics:

- Effective Practices in Correctional Settings (EPICS II) training
- JCATS Navigation training
- MAYSI-2 Assessment training
- Predisposition Risk Assessment (PDRA) training
- Sexual Orientation Gender Identify Expressions (SOGIE) training
- Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) training
- Other Fulton County Human Resources lead trainings



Data Source: Internal Reporting, 2nd of each month, Cumulative reporting **Date Range:** January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022

1. Certificates of completions from staff
2. Training Acknowledgement Forms from staff
3. Employee Self-Service (ESS) documentation
4. Attendance Rosters from trainings

Programming & Grants

Tomiko D. Williams, MPA, CPM

Director of Programming & Grants



The Programming and Grants Department develops, implements, and supports FCJC's court-based programs, special programming and initiatives, as well as the grants management functions of the Court. The Department includes Accountability Courts, the Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Informal Unit, the Preservation Unit, and coordination of the evidence-based treatment services available for youth on probation.

What We Do

The Programming and Grants Department mission is The Right Program. The Right Youth. The Right Time. This is Fulton County Juvenile Court's newest department, which brings together a collection of court-based programs and the grants management functions of the Court. The Department includes Accountability Courts, the Child In Need of Services (CHINS) Informal Unit, the Preservation Unit, and coordination of the evidence-based services available for youth on probation.

ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

Accountability Courts are specialized court programs that strive to affect real lifestyle change by utilizing a collaborative team-based approach to address the underlying and roots causes of criminogenic and addictive behaviors rather than just punishing the behavior. The team works together to provide a highly structured, coordinated, and holistic approach to

treating youth and parents/caregivers' substance use disorder and criminogenic behavior while simultaneously holding them accountable for their choices and behavior. Fulton County Juvenile Court currently has three Accountability Court Programs: ASCEND, CHOICES Juvenile Drug Court and HOPE Family Treatment Court (FTC).

CHOICES

The Fulton County Juvenile Drug Court Program, CHOICES (Choosing Healthy Options Increase Confidence, Excellence and Success), is a 12 – 15 months highly structured, non-adversarial, team-based approach intervention program, that

provides intensive court monitoring for moderate or high-risk juveniles, who have been assessed to regularly use and/or be dependent upon alcohol and/or drugs. The mission of CHOICES is to reduce substance use and recidivism of participants through individual, family, and group interventions

and treatment. CHOICES empowers youth to make better decisions through encouraging family and community support.

In 2022, CHOICES accepted four new program participants, assisted two participants with residential services, provided evidence-based and community programming. Parents also attended

ASCEND

The Fulton County Juvenile Court Alternative Solutions Creating Excellence Not Detention (ASCEND) Program successfully launched in March 2022. The ASCEND Program is a 10—12-month Accountability Court structured program that focuses on youth who have been adjudicated of a Class A or B Felony offense or are at risk for commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Through a judicially managed, team-based approach, ASCEND provides evidence-based programming in an effort to reduce the number of youths committed to DJJ or

HOPE

HOPE (Helping Our Parents Excel) is the Fulton County Family Treatment Court Program and is fully certified by the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) Standards and Certification Committee. Family Treatment Court (FTC) integrates substance use treatment services with dependency/child welfare/child abuse and neglect case processing for parents and/or legal guardians who have been assessed to have a substance use disorder. HOPE FTC is an 18 – 24 months, with four phases and Aftercare program that strives to promote the health, safety, and welfare of children by actively intervening to treat substance use disorder by providing evidence-based

CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES (CHINS)

The Child in Need of Services(CHINS) Unit was established in August 2019 to provide a comprehensive response to status offense cases. The unit proactively works with youth to eliminate and reduce formal court involvement by offering resources and services on the front-end. The CHINS Unit collaborates with internal and external

Strengthening Families parenting support group. The CHOICE Program held a graduation for a program participant to celebrate the successful completion of treatment and all program requirements. CHOICES team members also attend training each year to ensure the program is providing programming based on current best practices.

secure confinement. In order to have maximum impact of youth and their families, parents were also required to attend Strengthening Families parenting support group and Mothers Against Gang Violence.

The ASCEND program meets bi-monthly to staff youth cases and conduct court status review hearing with the youth and their parents. In its inaugural year, ASCEND participants have successfully completed multiple evidence-based programs. Currently four participants are on track to graduate in the first quarter of 2023.

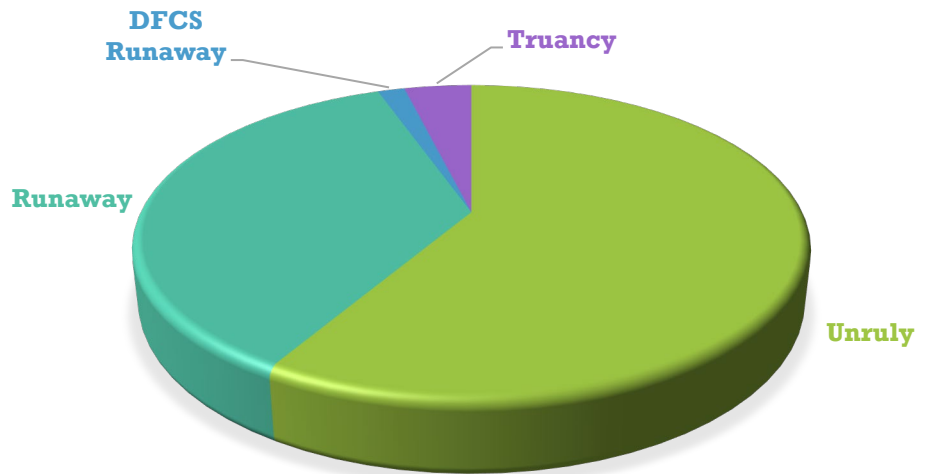
services and utilizing a collaborative multidisciplinary team and judicially managed approach. Program participants receive treatment based upon their assessed American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) levels. On average, HOPE FTC provides more than 9.5 hours of evidence-based treatment per week. One program participant met all program requirements and successfully graduated from the program in September.

HOPE FTC team members also attend training each year to ensure the program is providing programming based on current best practices.

service providers and community partners to effectively address status offense behaviors such as unruliness, runaway, and truancy, with guidance from CHINS Social Services Coordinators. The CHINS Social Services Coordinators connect youth and their families to services such as individual or family counseling and pro-social activities

and provide advocacy and follow-up to the family typically over a 90-day period. In 2022, 485 families requested information about CHINS services. Out of those contacts, 258 youth were served by the Unit. Of the cases serviced by the CHINS unit, 59% of cases were unruly and 93% of the same case were African American households. By the end of 2022, the CHINS unit closed 50% of the cases assigned. Of the closed cases, 50 youths' behavior improved and/or were actively receiving services.

CHINS 2022 REFERRALS: 258



CHINS 2022 Total Assigned Cases: 258

- Unruly – 151 (59%)
- Runaway - 93 (36%)
- DFCS Runaway- 4 (.02%)
- Truancy – 10 (.04%)

Data Source: 2022 CHINS Case Assignment Tracking Excel Database

PROGRAM UNIT

The Program Unit implements and connects court and community-based programs and services to youth and families served by the Court and provides educational programming for court constituents and our employees.

The Unit also represents the court in many community initiatives such as:

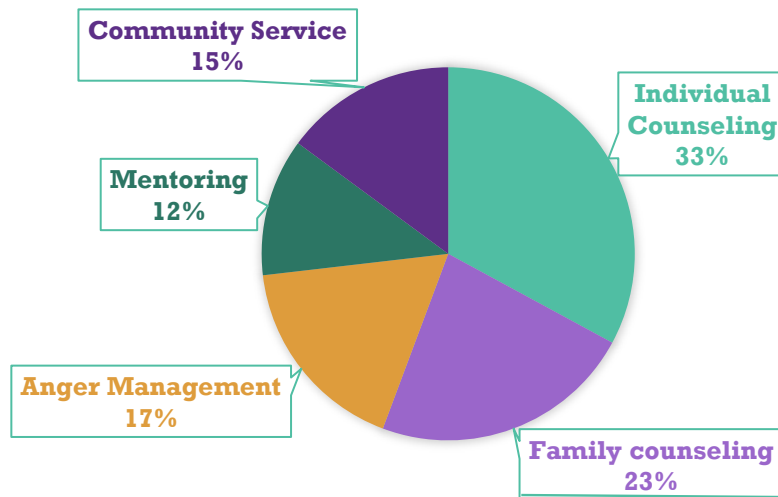
- In collaboration with Fulton County Superior Court and the Department of Family and Children Services, Programming and Grants plans the annual court wide celebration of National Adoption Day. National Adoption Day is a program adopted by the Court that is celebrated nationally to raise awareness of the significant number of children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the US. This year's program was a hybrid celebration where 15 youth were adopted (5 virtual and 10 in person).
- CEO's of Tomorrow is District 4 County Commissioner Natalie Hall's youth initiative aimed at empowering the next generation of leaders in the County to succeed. The program targets high school juniors and the Court was responsible for coordinating the Law Enforcement Panel. Programming and Grants conducted a workshop on the ways social media can derail future success.
- Lunch & Learns are court-wide informal information sessions where attendees learn more about the court's programmatic offerings over lunch.

The first Art Therapy Program was introduced to the court in collaboration with The Progress Place and Probation Services. Teen girls ages 13-16 engaged in weekly therapeutic conversations about healthy relationships while painting.

PRESERVATION UNIT

In 2022, 537 youth on probation or participating in the informal Children in Need of Services (CHINS) program were referred to programs and rehabilitative services providers. The most common services provided were individual counseling (33%), family counseling (23%), mentoring (12%), anger management (17%), and community service (15%).

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES



Data Source: 2022 Program Referral Excel Database

The court approved a total of four new providers in 2022. New Hope Family Services is a provider that is offering mental health services by helping the families of Fulton County tackle the many challenges they are facing. Learn to Grow and the SKYE Project are teen awareness and prevention programs that aim to give teens knowledge in subjects such as Alcohol and Drugs, Teen Pregnancy, Sexual Transmitted Infections, and Healthy Partner Relationships. The Glacier's Ice program is an entrepreneurial program that aims to teach young people how to build their own business and manage their finances as well as how important mentorship and collaboration with other entrepreneurs is important in business.

EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT

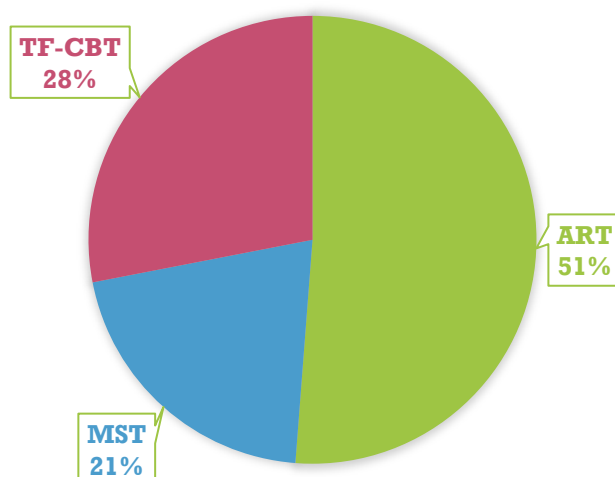
Fulton County Juvenile Court receives federal and state grant funding to provide evidence-based treatment services to youth on probation. In 2022, the court continued to provide Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), and Aggression Replacement Training (ART). These evidence-based services are designed to reduce recidivism and promote a positive relationship among the youth, their families, and their communities. In 2022, **82** youth were referred to evidence-based treatment programs and **20** youth successfully completed the programs.

Referrals to Evidence-Based Programs

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART): **42 referrals**
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST): **17 referrals**
- Trauma- Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT): **23 referrals**

Data Source: 2022 Program Referral Excel Database

EVIDENCE BASED SERVICES



Fulton County Juvenile Court's goal is to continuously improve on services, initiatives, and programs offered to youth and their families. Continuous improvement enhances operations across the court. In 2023 Fulton County Juveniles Court will focus on the following goals:

- Kicking off initiatives and activities under our court's strategic plan.
- Begin initiatives to become a trauma responsive court with court-wide training initiatives.
- Increase the level of service provided to both internal and external court customers, juveniles, their families, partners, stakeholders, etc.
- Increase fiscal responsibility throughout all court operations.
- Expand the court's technical footprint throughout each department.
- Increase the effectiveness of Human Resources processes.
- Enhance the quality of data tracked throughout each department.

Trends & Statistics

Summary & Multi-Year Case Statistics

Multi – Year Case Number

The last 5 years have seen changes to the justice system, most notable was the global COVID-19 pandemic and reduction in mandated reporting from our school systems. During 2020, Fulton County Juvenile Court changed protocols due to the worldwide response to COVID-19. In 2020, Fulton County Juvenile Court (FCJC) pivoted from in-person court hearings to virtual hearings. Then in 2021-2022, FCJC offered a combination of virtual and in person hearings. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, FCJC ensured strategies for supporting and acknowledging staff using a variety of communication tools for youth, their families, and staff. Examples of staff support strategies included teleworking schedules, virtual meetings and hearings, virtual Lunch & Learns for staff and the community. There is a report available on the Impact of COVID-19 on Juvenile Justice Systems (The Impact of COVID-19 On Juvenile Justice Systems: Practice Changes, Lessons Learned, And Future Considerations February 2022) that provides results of a survey sent to various jurisdictions in the US on COVID-19 policy changes.

In Juvenile Court Delinquency (DL) cases are matters involving an act (or charge) designated a crime, including detention hearings, probation violations and probation revocations. Charges related to Delinquency cases in Juvenile Court are considered either as a misdemeanor or a felony charge. In JCATS, charges are either grouped as a Delinquency M/F, Delinquency (Misdemeanor), or a Delinquency (Felony). A Delinquency M/F is a delinquency case that is categorized as a case that could be either a delinquent misdemeanor or delinquent felony. For example, a lot of theft charges can either be a misdemeanor if the amount stolen was less than

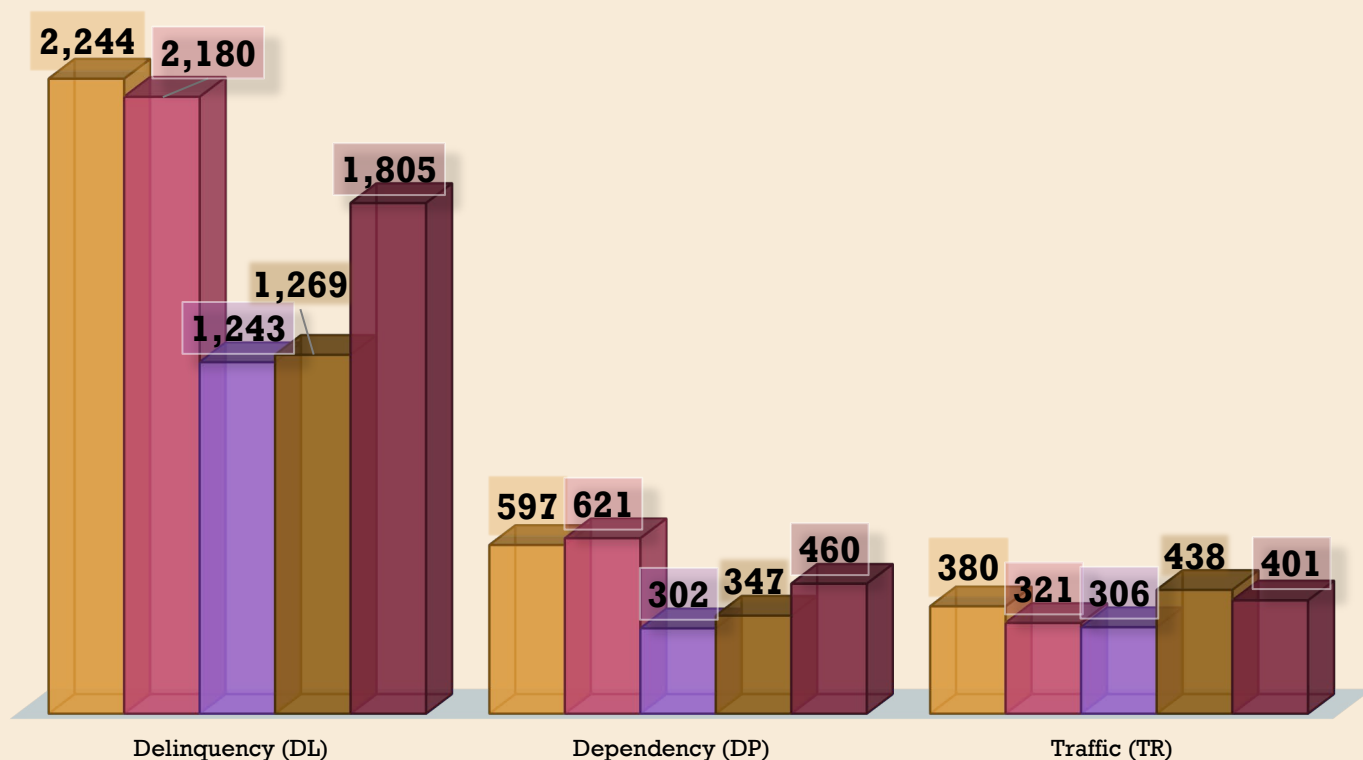
\$1,500 or a felony if it is greater than \$1,500. A Delinquency (Msd) is a delinquent case where the highest-ranking offense is a misdemeanor. And a Delinquency (Felony) that means that it is a delinquent case where the highest-ranking offense is a felony.

The overall number of youth offenses are as follows: in 2019, there was a 3.07% decrease in overall cases filed in Fulton County Juvenile Court. In 2020, there was a 12.77% decrease in overall cases filed in Court. In March 2020, all courts and school systems were mandated to pivot to a virtual environment. During this time, there was a decrease in mandated reporting due to the loss of in-person interaction with students. As courts and school systems held both virtual and in-person interaction, there was a 10.97% increase in number of cases filed. In 2022, there was a 29.96% increase in cases filed in Fulton County Juvenile Court.

- **Delinquency (DL) Cases:** There was a 2.9% decrease in Delinquency (DL) cases from 2018 to 2019. Then there was a decrease of 75.38% in DL cases changed from 2019 to 2020. There was a change of 2.09% increase in DL cases from 2020 to 2021. And finally, there was a 42.24% increase of DL cases from 2021 to 2022.
- **Dependency (DP) Cases:** In 2019, there was a 4.02% increase in Dependency (DP) cases from 2018. There was a notable 51.37 % decrease in DP cases from 2019 to 2020. And finally, there was a 32.56% increase of DP cases from 2021 to 2022.
- **Traffic Cases:** There was a 15.53 % decrease from 2018 to 2019. A 4.67% decrease from 2019 to 2020. There was a significant increase of 43.14% from 2020 to 2021. And finally, there was an 8.45% decrease in TR cases from 2021 to 2022.

CASE NUMBERS PER YEAR

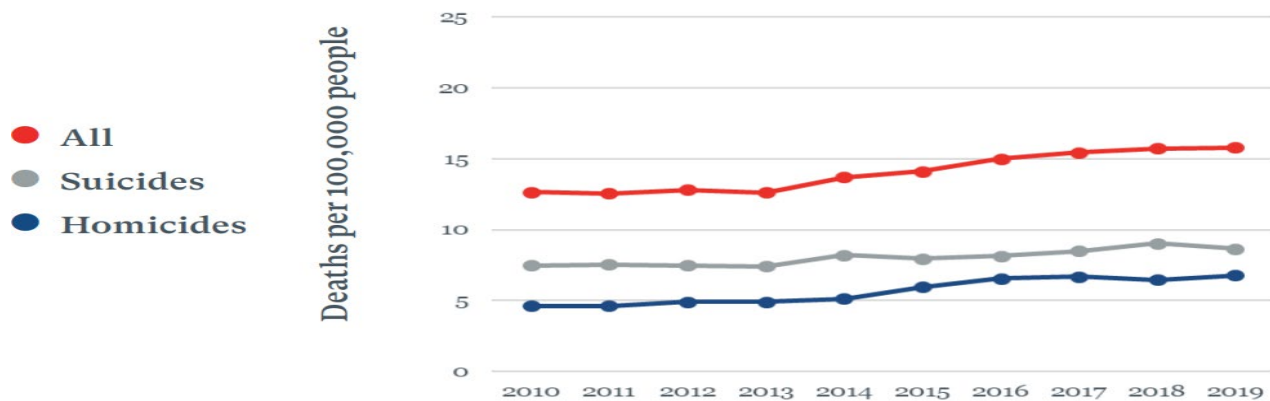
2018 2019 *2020 2021 2022



Data Source: JCATS Cases by Year and Month(2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) Reporting

Weapon Related Case Counts by Year

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in a five -year study (2015- 2019) there was an average of 1,603 people that died and 4,492 were wounded by guns in Georgia. Georgia has the 9th-highest rate of gun violence in the United States (US). In Georgia, the rate of gun deaths increased 25% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 16% and gun homicides increased 47%, compared to a 13% increase and 26% increase nationwide, respectively.

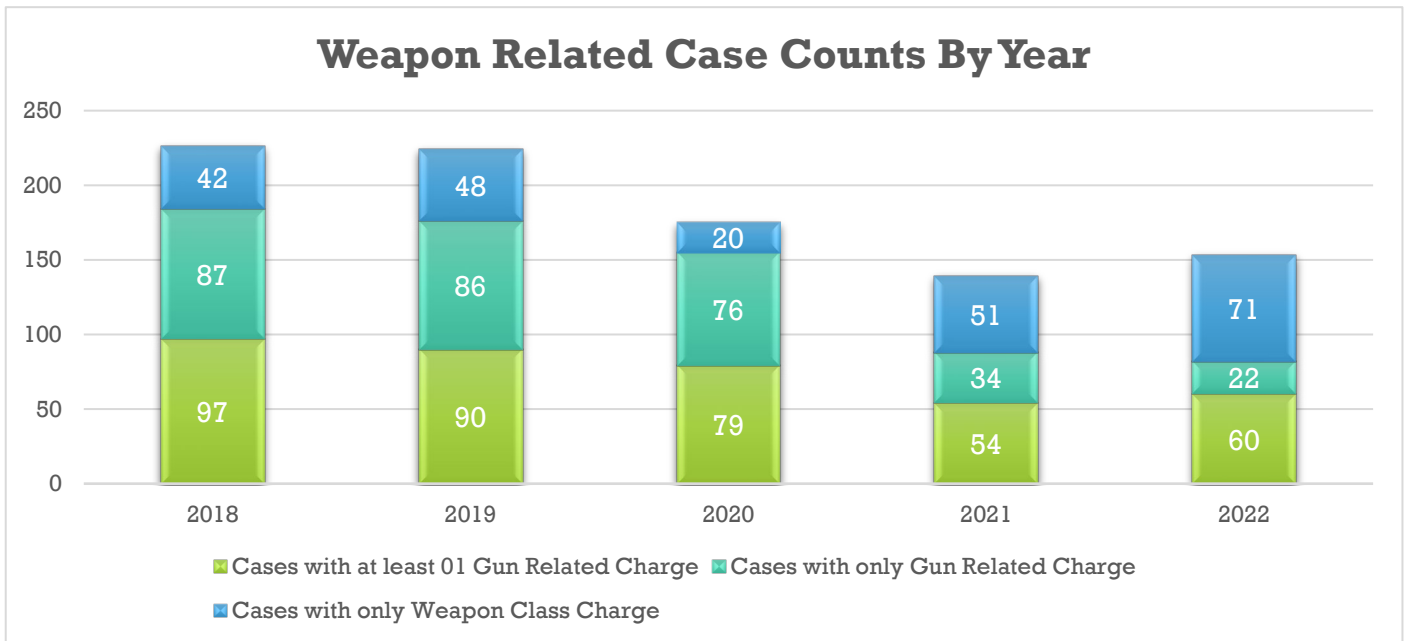


Data Sources:

- Gun deaths: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2015–2019 (Georgia).
- Gun violence trends: CDC, WONDER, 2010–2019(Georgia).
- Gun injuries: Ted R. Miller and David Swedler, analysis of HCUP nonfatal injury: 2017(Georgia).
- Cost of gun violence: Ted R. Miller, analysis of CDC fatal injury: 2018 and HCUP nonfatal injury: 2017.

In Fulton County Juvenile Court (FCJC), the overall Weapon Related Case Counts for 2019 decreased by 0.88% and continued to decrease until 2021. In 2022, the total number of Weapon Related Case Counts increased by 10.07% from the previous year.

- **Cases with at least one Gun Related Charge:** From 2019 until 2021, there was a steady decrease in Cases filed with at least one Gun Related Charge 7.22% (2019), 12.22% (2020), 31.65% (2021). Then in 2022, there was a 11.11% increase in Cases filed in Juvenile Court with at least one Gun Related Charge.
- **Cases with only Gun Related Charge:** For Cases filed with only Gun Related Charge continuously dropped from 2018 to 2022 (1.15%, 11.63%, 55.26%, and 35.29%). The largest drop in Cases with only Gun Related Charge was in 2020 with 55.26% decrease.
- **Cases with only Weapon Class Charge:** There a decrease in Cases with only Weapon Class Charge filed between 2018 and 2020 (14.29%and 58.33%). The largest increase in Cases files with only Weapon Class Charge was seen in 2021 with 155%. In 2022, there was a 39.22% increase from the previous year.



Data Source: JCATS Weapon Related Cases Count by Year (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022) Reporting

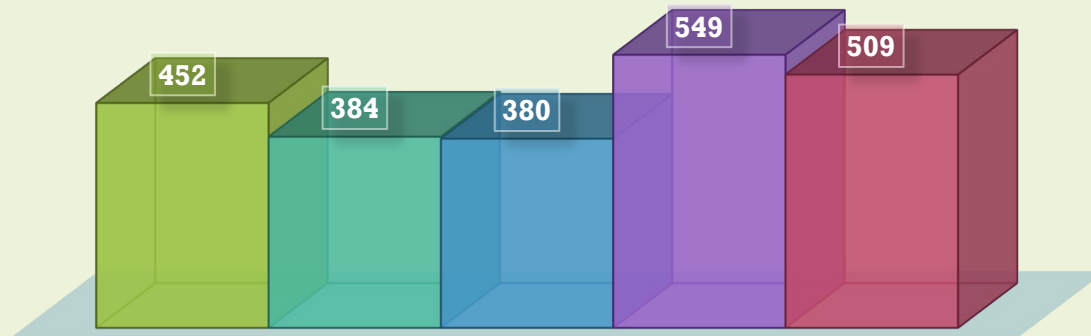
Traffic Cases in Fulton County Juvenile Court

The traffic case process is initiated when an officer cites a motorist for a traffic violation. For traffic infractions or traffic misdemeanors, the officer will issue a summons. If a summons is issued, the juvenile is released on his written promise to appear. Any person who was under the age of 17 at the time he or she committed the alleged offense may come under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. All traffic infractions such as speeding, running a red light, etc. are heard in Fulton County Juvenile Court, with the citation issued in Fulton County. The Juvenile Court requires a personal appearance by the minor. Normally at least one parent is required to attend the hearing. The Juvenile Court tries to reinforce the parent-child relationship. Parental presence ensures that parents are aware of the incident, understand the reasons for the disposition made in the case, and can cooperate in the imposition of appropriate sanctions.

In Fulton County Juvenile Court, there was a decreasing trend of traffic cases filed until 2020. There was a 15.04% increase in 2019 and 1.04% decrease in 2020. The largest increase in traffic cases filed in Juvenile Court was in 2021. There was a 44.47 % increase in traffic cases from 2020 to 2021. There was a 7.29% decrease from the previous year of traffic cases filed.

Traffic Cases By Most Serious Offense by Year

■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022



Data Source: JCATS Traffic Cases by Most Serious Offense by Year (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) Reporting

Traffic Cases Filed in 2018:

There was a total of 452 cases filed in 2018. In 2019, there was a decrease in number of traffic cases filed (384). There was a minor decrease in traffic cases filed during 2022 as compared to the previous year (380). In 2021, there were 549 cases filed in Fulton County Juvenile Court (Traffic), which was a 44.47% increase in youth traffic violation from 2020. In 2022, there were a total of 509 traffic cases file, which was a 7.29% decrease in youth related traffic cases filed. Speeding consistently remains in the top three traffic violation for all five years. The chart below lists the most serve traffic charges filed per year with the frequency of the traffic violation in parentheses:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
▪ Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device or Signal (33)	▪ Following Too Close (72)	▪ License; Permits, Restriction (58)	▪ Speeding (89)	▪ Speeding (79)
▪ Follow Too Close (87)	▪ Speeding (50)	▪ Speeding (56)	▪ License; Permits, Restriction (81)	▪ License; Permits, Restriction (72)
▪ Speeding (69)	▪ License; Permits, Restriction (56)	▪ Follow Too Close (54)	▪ Follow Too Close (61)	▪ Follow Too Close (65)
▪ License; Permits, Restriction (54)	▪ Failure to Yield Left Turn (28)	▪ Failure to Yield Turning Left (20)	▪ Drive w/o License (44)	▪ Drive w/o License (38)
▪ Failure to Yield Left Turn (38)	▪ Drive w/o License (22)	▪ Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device or Signal (19)	▪ Failure to Yield Turning Left (40)	▪ Failure to Yield Turning Left (30)
▪ Improper Drive Right of Way (29)	▪ Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device or Signal (20)	▪ Pedestrian Along Roadway (18)	▪ Improper Drive Right of Way (24)	▪ Stop signs and yield sign (28)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
▪ Turning movements; signal (17)	▪ Failure to Yield Entering Roadway (Right of Way) (19)	▪ Drive w/o License (16)	▪ Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device or Signal (24)	▪ Improper Drive Right of Way (23)
▪ Operating a Vehicle w/o Tag (14)	▪ Improper Drive Right of Way (18)	▪ Operating a Vehicle w/o tag (16)	▪ Turning movements; signal (20)	▪ Turning movements; signal (19)
▪ Drive w/o License (14)	▪ Stop signs and yield sign (13)	▪ Improper Drive Right of Way (16)	▪ Pedestrian Along Roadway (19)	▪ Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device or Signal (16)
▪ Failure to Yield Entering Roadway (Right of Way) (11)	▪ Engaging in Wireless Communication While Driving (12)	▪ Stop signs and yield sign (13)	▪ Stop signs and yield sign (19)	▪ Failure to Yield Entering Roadway (Right of Way) (13)
▪ Engaging in Wireless Communication While Driving (8)	▪ Turning movements; signal (10)	▪ Failure to Yield Entering Roadway (Right of Way) (12)	▪ Operating a Vehicle w/o tag (11)	▪ Engaging in Wireless Communication While Driving (13)
	▪ No Drive License Person (8)	▪ Too Fast for Conditions (9)	▪ No Drive License Person (8)	▪ Operating a Vehicle w/o tag (12)
		▪ Engaging in Wireless Communication While Driving (8)	▪ Failure to Yield Entering Roadway (Right of Way) (8)	▪ Crosswalk violation by pedestrian (9)
			▪ Failure to use due care (8)	▪ Roadway used for hitch hiking (8)

DIVERSION VS DETENTION

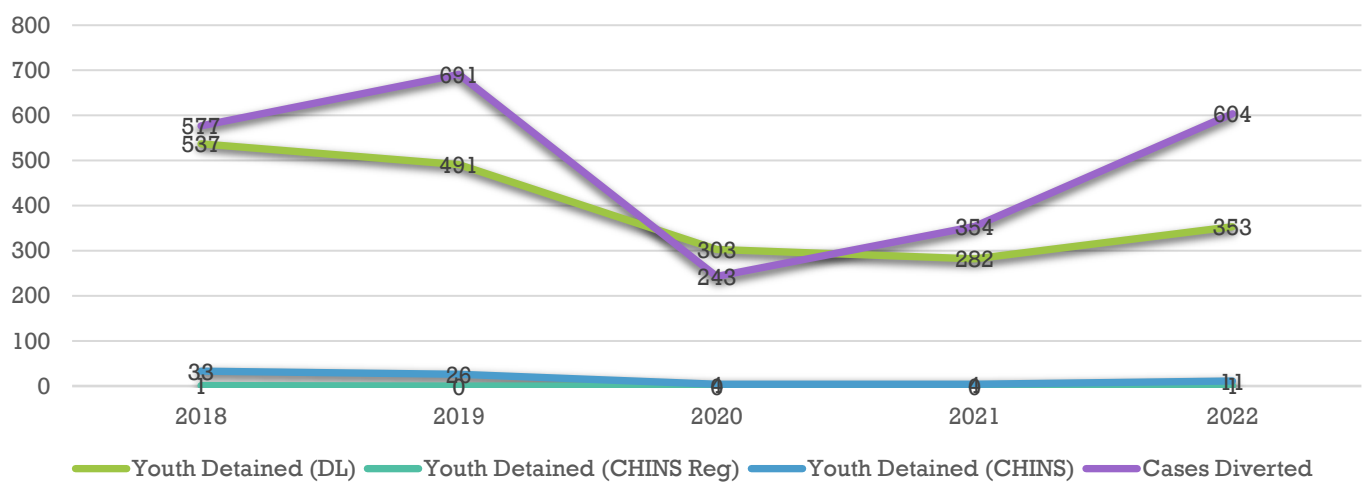
2018-2022 Youth Detained vs Cases Diverted

The mission of Fulton County Juvenile Court is first to protect children and the community in matters brought before the court, to rehabilitate children, and to restore families; and second, to create opportunities for the community, partners, and stakeholders to actively engage in this mission. As cases are brought before the court, cases have various dispositions based on the circumstances of the case. This data looks at the trends from 2018-2022 on youth detained verses youth diverted into community programs. The number of youths detained would be the number of cases that were filed and diverted within the date range. And the number of detainments is the total number of detentions within the date range specified. All numbers are reported by JCATS. In 2018 there were 1.05% more youth diverted into various community programs and/or mediation. The goal of diversion is to empower youth by offering various programming, education opportunities, job training, volunteer services and leadership development activities. These opportunities provide youth with a safe environment that will allow them to work towards their goals. In 2019 and 2020, there were 25.18% and 26.34% respectively less youth detained than diverted to community programs. The largest number of referrals into various diversion programs was in 2022, where there was a 64.48% increase in youth being diverted into community programs.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Youth Detained (DL)	537	491	303	282	353
Youth Detained (CHINS Reg)	1	0	0	0	1
Youth Detained (CHINS)	33	26	4	4	11
Cases Diverted	577	691	243	354	604

Data Source: JCATS, Performance Measures (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022)

2018-2022 Youth Detained vs Cases Diverted





Fulton County Juvenile Court

Atlanta Judicial Circuit | Fulton County Juvenile Court

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