

# An Assessment of Connecticut Juvenile Justice System Decision Making by Gender Final Report

Submitted to: Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance

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# Study Background

The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance (CJJA) is striving to make changes in the way Connecticut's juvenile justice system handles girls.

To inform their work, CJJA is gathering information from a number of sources (e.g., girls in the system, policymakers, system practitioners). As part of the information gathering process, CJJA has retained Spectrum Associates Market Research (Spectrum Associates) to analyze system data obtained from Connecticut's police, juvenile court, and the Department of Children and Families to determine if similarly charged girls and boys experience different decision outcomes at discrete points in the system.

# Overall Study Design

This assessment is structured to determine:

- If any differences exist in decisions made for boys and girls who were processed for similar types of offenses (e.g., Serious Juvenile Offenses [SJO]\*, non-SJO felonies, misdemeanors, and violations) as they move through Connecticut’s juvenile justice system.
- When differences were found, multivariate analyses were conducted to determine if the observed differences by gender remain when controlling for offender and offense characteristics or were neutralized by the predictor variables. The factors included in the multivariate analyses at each decision point only included factors that were: (a) likely to be information known by the decision maker at the time of the decision, and (b) systematically recorded and available to Spectrum Associates for inclusion in the study.

While the focus of this assessment is to determine if different decisions were made by juvenile justice system practitioners for boys and girls charged with the same level of charge, the data were also disaggregated by race/ethnicity to assess whether there were differences in decision outcomes by gender within race/ethnicity groups (i.e., Black, Hispanic, and White), when possible.

\* Connecticut legislation has identified about 50 specific offenses as “Serious Juvenile Offenses” (e.g., murder, manslaughter, robbery 1 & 2, assault 1 & 2, sex assault 1 & 2, sale of drugs), and provided the court with an increased range of dispositional sanctions when juveniles commit or attempt to commit these offenses.

# Police

# Police: Sample and Decision Examined

## Sample

The police data used for this study were manually abstracted from about 1/3 of Connecticut’s municipal police departments and state police barracks. The 26 municipal departments and 5 state police barracks were selected to assure representation from different geographic areas of the state and different size cities and towns. Within these parameters, the departments/barracks were randomly selected.

Data were abstracted from incident reports written January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. The number of boys and girls included in the study for the police component at each offense type is displayed below. Please note there are small sample sizes for girls at the SJO (N=22) and non-SJO felony level (N=31). Caution must be used when interpreting the findings for small base size cells.

Due to the small sample sizes for girls charged with felony level offenses, breakouts by race/ethnicity are only provided for misdemeanor level offenses.

**Police Abstracted Sample**

	2015		
	Most Serious Apprehension Charge		
	SJO	Non-SJO Felony	Misde- meanor
Boys	65	158	1,075
Girls	22	31	557
Total	87	189	1,632

## Decisions Examined

The decision points examined for the police component are:

- Did the police refer the juvenile to court or take less formal action?
- Did the police take the juvenile to the police station?
- Was the juvenile placed in secure holding at the police station?
- For those placed in secure holding, for how many hours was the juvenile held in secure holding?

# Police: Multivariate Analysis Factors

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The factors included as appropriate in the multivariate analyses for the police decisions are provided below.

<b>Socio-demographic</b>	<b>Incident Characteristics</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
Age	How Police Became Aware of The Incident	Presence of a Juvenile Review Board
Gender	School vs. Non-School Incident	Size of City/Town
Race/Ethnicity	Gang related	Local vs. Out-of-Town
	Number of Offenders	
	Possession of Alcohol	
	Possession of Drugs	
	Under Influence of Drugs/Alcohol	
	Possession of Weapon/Gun	
	Victim Injured	
	Property Damage	

# Police: Action Taken on Apprehension

The figure below displays the actions taken by police for boys and girls apprehended for SJO, non-SJO felony, and misdemeanor offenses.

- The majority of girls and boys apprehended for a felony (SJO or not) were referred to court (84%-98%) while about two-thirds of the juveniles apprehended for a misdemeanor were referred to court (62%-66%).
- Boys apprehended for a non-SJO felony appear to be somewhat more likely than girls to be referred to court (91% vs. 84%) and girls apprehended for a misdemeanor appear to be somewhat more likely than boys to be referred to court (66% vs. 62%). However in both cases, the differences are not statistically significant.

**Police Action by Most Serious Charge at Apprehension (2015)**

		Boys	Girls
<b>Serious Juvenile Offense</b>	Referred to Juvenile Court	98%	95%
	Referred to community agency	0%	5%
	Warning*	2%	0%
	Total	100%	100%
	Base	65	22
<b>Non-SJO Felony</b>	Referred to Juvenile Court	91%	84%
	Referred to community agency	3%	0%
	Warning*	6%	16%
	Total	100%	100%
	Base	158	31
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	Referred to Juvenile Court	62%	66%
	Referred to community agency	8%	7%
	Warning*	30%	27%
	Total	100%	100%
	Base	1,075	557

\* Includes speaking with youth and parents; bringing youth to station and warning; and conference with youth, parents, and others.

Note: The percentages may appear to not total to 100% due to rounding.

The data were broken out by race/ethnicity for juveniles apprehended for a misdemeanor level charge:

- For White juveniles, the boys and girls were similarly likely to be referred to court.
- For Black and Hispanic juveniles, the girls were more likely to be referred to court. However, the multivariate analyses determined that gender was not a significant factor in the differences.

**Police Action by Most Serious Charge at Apprehension Misdemeanor by Race/Ethnicity**

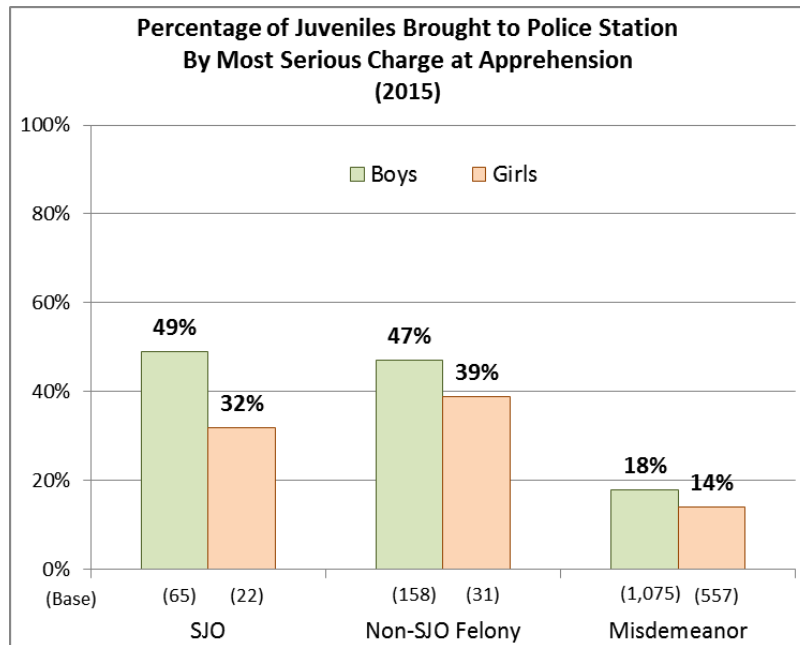
	Black		Hispanic		White	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Referred to Juvenile Court	62%	72%	62%	67%	63%	60%
Referred to community agency	8%	5%	7%	6%	9%	9%
Warning*	31%	23%	31%	27%	28%	31%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Base	335	193	301	158	429	206



# Police: Brought to the Police Station

The figure below displays the percentage of boys and girls taken to the police station/state police barrack.

- Boys apprehended for a misdemeanor were more likely to be brought to the police station/state police barrack than were girls. The model used to examine this decision point was not very strong, but indicated that age and availability of a JRB available in the community had more of an impact on the decision than did gender.
- For both SJO and non-SJO felonies, while it appears that boys were more likely to be brought to the police station/state police barrack than were girls, the differences were not statistically significant (note small sample sizes for the girls).



An examination by race/ethnicity for misdemeanor charges revealed:

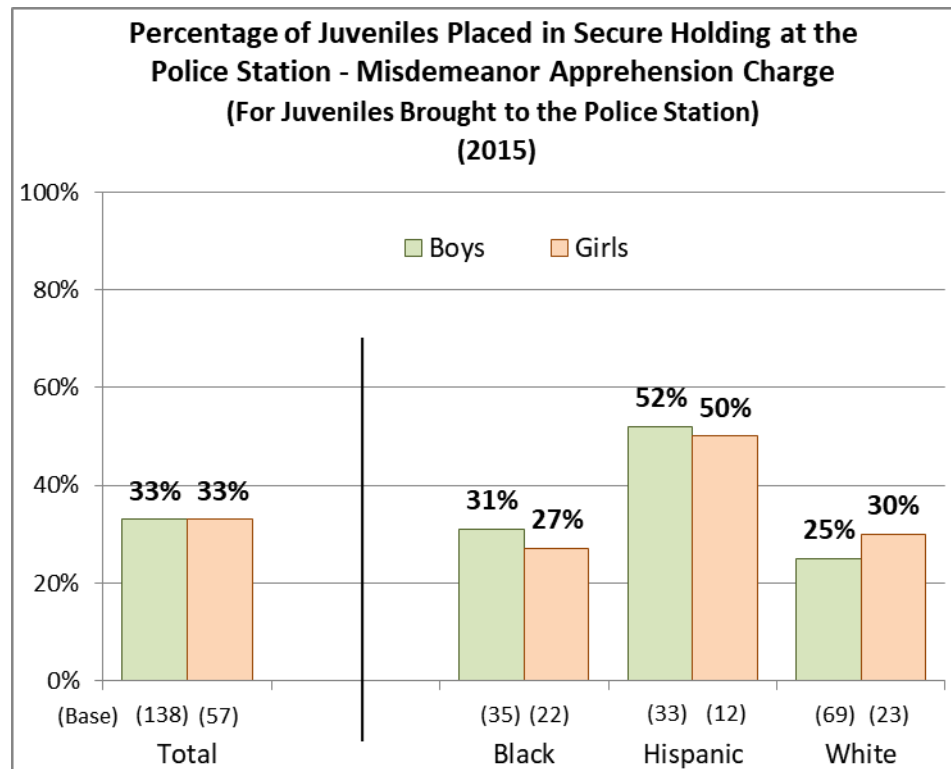
- White boys were more likely to be brought to the station/barrack than were White girls, and the disparity was not neutralized when considering the other factors.
- The multivariate analyses determined that the difference between Hispanic boys and girls was neutralized by other factors.

	Boys		Girls	
	%	Base	%	Base
Black	14%	335	16%	193
Hispanic	17%	301	13%	158
White	22%	429	15%	206

# Police: Use of Secure Holding

Due to the small number of girls apprehended for a felony, the figure below only displays data for juveniles apprehended for a misdemeanor level charge and brought to a police station/state police barrack.

- In total, the same percentage of boys and girls brought to the station/barrack were placed in secure holding (33%).
- The breakout by race/ethnicity shows that the use of secure holding at the police stations/state barracks was fairly similar for boys and girls within the different racial/ethnic categories. The differences between boys and girls for Black (boys a bit higher than girls) and White (girls a bit higher than boys) juveniles must be viewed with caution due to the small sample sizes for girls (N=22-23).



# Court

# Court: Sample and Decision Examined

## Sample

For the court component, data were obtained for all juvenile cases (delinquency and FWSN) disposed July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Spectrum Associates reviewed the court data received and excluded cases: for juveniles that did not live in Connecticut, with a “miscellaneous” case disposition, or that had key information missing. The number of boys and girls included in the study for the court component for each offense type is displayed below:

		2014-15				
		Most Serious Referral Charge				
		SJO	Non-SJO Felony	Misde-meanor	Violation	FWSN
Boys		474	753	3,024	159	1,510
Girls		76	125	1,847	98	1,439
	Total	550	878	4,871	257	2,949

## Decisions Examined

The decision points examined for the court component are:

- Was the juvenile brought to a detention center following apprehension for the case under study?
- How was the FWSN/delinquency referral handled (not accepted, non-judicially, judicially)?
- What was the final court outcome for FWSN cases (placement, supervision, dismissed)?
- What was the final court outcome for non-judicial delinquency cases (non-judicial supervision, discharge, not presented)?
- What was the final court outcome for judicial delinquency cases (adjudicated, nolle, not delinquent, dismissed)?
- What was the final court disposition for adjudicated delinquency cases (commitment to DCF, probation, discharged)?

# Court: Multivariate Analysis Factors

The factors included, as appropriate, in the multivariate analyses for the court decisions are provided below. Only those factors that could/should have been known at the time of a particular decision are included in the multivariate analyses for that decision point.

Socio-demographic	Incident Characteristics	Assessment Tools**	Court History
Age	Drug Sale Charge	BRAT score	Number of Prior Referrals
Gender	Weapon Charge	JAG Risk Score	Prior Penetration into JJS
Race/Ethnicity	SJO – Person vs. Non-person	JAG Protective Score	Prior Drug Sale Charge
Neighborhood Characteristics*	School vs. Non-school	JAG Supervision Level	Prior Weapon Charge
Large City vs. Other			Prior Failure to Appear

\* In an effort to assess the impact of poverty on decision making, Spectrum Associates utilized a geocoding and mapping software to assign neighborhood economic characteristics to each juvenile for which a home address was available (e.g., estimated percentage of households with < \$25,000 household income in 2015).

\*\* Data from two assessment tools used by Juvenile Probation were obtained for the study. The Brief Risk Assessment Tool (BRAT) is an initial short risk assessment instrument used to identify low-risk juveniles for special handling and the Juvenile Assessment Generic (JAG) is a formalized assessment instrument that identifies and addresses a juvenile’s criminogenic needs, protective factors, and arrives at an overall score that assesses the juvenile’s likelihood of recidivating.

# Police/Court: Order to Detain (Pretrial Detention)

When a police officer has apprehended a juvenile for an alleged offense and feels the juvenile should be brought to a pretrial detention center, the officer must get an Order to Detain signed by a Judge. Therefore a juvenile’s entrance into a pretrial detention center is determined by both agencies. As the court data were used to examine this issue, it is in the court section of the report. The figure below displays the percentage of juveniles that were brought to a detention center for their offense.

- For SJOs in total, while boys were somewhat more likely than girls to be brought to a detention center the multivariate analyses determined that gender was not a significant factor in this difference. An examination of detention used for juveniles charged with an SJO within the race/ethnicity groups shows that the difference in the use of detention for boys and girls is due to differences for Black juveniles wherein 22% of the boys were detained vs. 8% for the girls (multivariate analyses could not be conducted to test the impact of gender on this decision point for Black juveniles as the base size for girls is only 24). The percentage of Hispanic boys and girls, and White boys and girls detained were similar.
- At the non-SJO felony and misdemeanor levels, boys and girls were similarly likely to brought to a detention center.

**Juveniles Brought by Detention Center Under Order to Detain for Instant Offense\***  
**By Most Serious Referral Charge**  
**(2014-15)**

	Total**		Black		Hispanic		White	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
<b>SJO</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Base	474	76	193	24	129	21	146	28
<b>Non-SJO Felony</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Base	753	125	257	47	200	23	285	54
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Base	3,024	1,847	898	590	713	527	1,354	701

\* Includes only detention placements that resulted from the instant offense for this study.

\*\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

# Court: FWSN Case Handling

For FWSN cases, two decision points were examined: how the case was handled (judicial, non-judicial, not accepted) and the case outcome for cases that were accepted (placement, supervision, dismissed).

The figure below displays the data for FWSN case handling.

- Across gender and race/ethnicity, the vast majority of the FWSN cases were handled non-judicially (82%-89% in total and across the different race/ethnic groups).
- While most FWSN cases were handled non-judicially, girls were about twice as likely to have their case handled judicially than were boys. This trend was present across the three racial/ethnic groups. The multivariate analyses did not generate very strong models, but identified three of the factors included in the analyses as having a significant impact on the handling decision: gender (girls more likely to be handled judicially), being a school related incident, number of prior cases (having a prior more likely to be handled judicially), and the court handling the case. The next page displays the findings by court location.

**FWSN Case Handling  
(2014-15)**

	Total*		Black		Hispanic		White	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
FWSN Judicial	2%	4%	3%	5%	1%	4%	2%	4%
FWSN Non-Judicial	85%	84%	86%	82%	89%	87%	85%	84%
Not Accepted	12%	12%	11%	13%	10%	9%	13%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Base	1,532	1,472	267	286	517	487	522	481

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

Note: The percentages may appear to not total to 100% due to rounding.

# Court: FWSN Case Handling (continued)

With regard to the specific court location handling of the FWSN cases there are two trends to note:

- In three courts, girls were about 2+ times as likely as boys to have their FWSN case handled judicially (Middletown, Waterford, Willimantic).
- For the Bridgeport court, girls were somewhat more likely than boys to have their FWSN case handled judicially (10% vs. 8%). Because this one court had about 20% of all the FWSN cases handled in the year, this also plays a role in the difference seen by gender in total.

**Percentage of FWSN Cases Handled Judicially by Court  
(2014-15)**

	Boys		Girls	
	%	Base	%	Base
Bridgeport	8%	292	10%	315
<b>Middletown</b>	<b>4%</b>	101	<b>7%</b>	97
Waterbury	3%	90	4%	94
<b>Waterford</b>	<b>1%</b>	98	<b>4%</b>	103
<b>Willimantic</b>	<b>0%</b>	58	<b>4%</b>	50
New Britain	2%	174	1%	167
Hartford	1%	243	1%	219
Danbury	0%	112	1%	76
Vernon/Rockville	0%	71	1%	74
New Haven	1%	152	0%	158
Stamford	0%	83	0%	72
Torrington	0%	58	0%	47



# Court: FWSN Case Outcome

- While the majority of boys (84%) and girls (80%) received supervision for their FWSN case, the percentage was higher for boys. The multivariate analyses determined that the impact of gender was not neutralized when considering the other factors.
- Across the race/ethnicity categories, boys were slightly to somewhat more likely to get supervision than girls.

**FWSN Case Outcome  
(Judicial & Non-Judicial)  
(2014-15)**

	Total*		Black		Hispanic		White	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Placement**	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Supervision	84%	80%	81%	79%	84%	79%	87%	85%
Dismissed	16%	20%	19%	22%	16%	21%	13%	15%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Base	1,377	1,314	242	251	477	442	463	431

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

\*\* Placement was only used for 1 Hispanic girl and 1 Hispanic boy.

Note: The percentages may appear to not total to 100% due to rounding.

# Court: Delinquency Case Handling

Statutorily juveniles charged with a Class A Felony or Class B Felony and were 14 years of age or older at the time of the offense are automatically transferred to adult court. As there were only six girls whose cases were eligible for automatic transfer, no data will be displayed in this report around that issue.

For juveniles charged with a delinquency offense that is not classified as an automatic transfer, the handling options are: not accepted, non-judicial, judicial, and transfer to adult court (discretionary). The figure on the next page displays the case handling decisions for cases that were not eligible for automatic transfer.

- Very few cases were transferred to adult court.
- Typically, boys and girls were similarly likely to have their case handled judicially.
- However, boys charged with a misdemeanor were somewhat more likely than girls charged with a misdemeanor to have their case handled judicially and girls charged with a violation were somewhat more likely than boys charged with a violation to have their case handled judicially. The multivariate analyses determined that the differences by gender for violation cases (girls more likely to be handled judicially) was neutralized while the differences by gender for misdemeanor cases (boys more likely to be handled judicially) were not neutralized.
- The percentage of the boys and girls whose delinquency cases were handled judicially within the race/ethnicity categories were similar to the trend revealed for the total.

# Court: Delinquency Case Handling (continued)

**Delinquency Case Handling +  
by Most Serious Referral Charge  
(2014-15)**

		Total*		Black		Hispanic		White	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
<b>Serious Juvenile Offense</b>	Discretionary Transfer	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
	Judicial	98%	99%	99%	95%	95%	100%	100%	100%
	Non-Judicial	1%	1%	1%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%
	Not Accepted	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Base	324	71	121	22	92	20	107	26
<b>Non-SJO Felony</b>	Discretionary Transfer	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
	Judicial	89%	86%	91%	87%	90%	83%	86%	87%
	Non-Judicial	9%	12%	7%	9%	8%	17%	12%	13%
	Not Accepted	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%	0%	1%	0%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Base	729	124	252	46	191	23	275	54
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	Judicial	43%	35%	50%	45%	46%	34%	37%	27%
	Non-Judicial	49%	54%	40%	43%	48%	55%	55%	63%
	Not Accepted	8%	11%	10%	12%	6%	11%	8%	10%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Base	3,024	1,847	898	590	713	527	1,354	701
<b>Violation</b>	Judicial	80%	89%	96%	97%	93%	94%	57%	64%
	Non-Judicial	18%	6%	4%	0%	4%	0%	40%	29%
	Not Accepted	2%	5%	0%	3%	4%	6%	4%	7%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Base	137	64	56	32	28	17	53	14

+ This figure excludes juveniles eligible for automatic transfer: (charged with with Class A or B felony and 14 + years of age at the time of the offense)

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

Note: The percentages may appear to not total to 100% due to rounding.

# Court: Non-Judicial Delinquency Case Outcome

The case outcomes for delinquency cases handled non-judicially are displayed below.

- The percentage of juveniles receiving non-judicial supervision for their case was similar for boys and girls for both non-SJO felonies and misdemeanors.

**Court Outcome of Non-Judicial Delinquency Cases  
by Most Serious Disposed Charge  
(2014-15)**

		Total*		Black		Hispanic		White	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
<b>Non-SJO Felony</b>	Non-Judicial Supervision	82%	87%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Discharge	18%	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Not Presented	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Base	68	15	18	4	16	4	34	7
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	Non-Judicial Supervision	75%	73%	70%	71%	70%	71%	79%	75%
	Discharge	25%	27%	30%	29%	30%	29%	21%	25%
	Not Presented	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Base	1,481	996	361	253	344	289	746	440

Note: As SJOs are by law handled judicially, they are excluded from this figure.

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

Note: The percentages may appear to not total to 100% due to rounding. Some data are not displayed in this figure because the base size for girls is less than 10.☐

# Court: Judicial Delinquency Case Outcome

The case outcomes for delinquency cases handled judicially are displayed here.

- The percentage of boys and girls adjudicated for their cases was similar for SJO (67% vs. 69%) and violation (both 47%) level cases.
- For non-SJO felony and misdemeanor cases, boys were more likely to be adjudicated. While the models for both levels of cases were not very strong, they indicated that the differences by gender for the non-SJO level cases were neutralized by other factors while the differences in the adjudication levels for boys and girls for the misdemeanor level cases were not neutralized.
- The percentage of the boys and girls adjudicated for their charges within the race/ethnicity categories were similar to the trend revealed for the total.

**Court Outcome of Judicial Delinquency Cases  
by Most Serious Referral Charge  
(2014-15)**

	Total*		Black		Hispanic		White		
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
<b>Serious Juvenile Offense</b>	Adjudicated SJO	7%	4%	4%	9%	12%	0%	6%	4%
	Adjudicated Delinquent	60%	65%	67%	64%	58%	70%	54%	67%
	Nolle	32%	26%	28%	27%	29%	25%	36%	26%
	Dismissed	2%	4%	1%	0%	1%	5%	4%	4%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Base	360	72	128	22	99	20	127	27	
<b>Non-SJO Felony</b>	Adjudicated Delinquent	58%	45%	66%	52%	64%	42%	45%	40%
	Nolle	40%	53%	34%	45%	34%	58%	51%	57%
	Dismissed	2%	2%	0%	3%	2%	0%	4%	2%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Base	653	107	229	40	173	19	242	47
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	Adjudicated Delinquent	44%	36%	50%	42%	44%	31%	39%	33%
	Nolle	54%	62%	49%	57%	54%	65%	59%	66%
	Dismissed	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	4%	2%	1%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Base	1,288	651	445	265	328	182	494	193
<b>Violation</b>	Adjudicated Delinquent	47%	47%	54%	52%	50%	25%	-	-
	Nolle	48%	53%	44%	48%	46%	75%	-	-
	Dismissed	5%	0%	2%	0%	4%	0%	-	-
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	-
	Base	110	57	54	31	26	16	30	9

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

Note: The percentages may appear to not total to 100% due to rounding. Some data are not displayed in this figure because the base size for girls is less than 10.

# Court: Adjudicated Delinquency Case Disposition

The final case dispositions for the adjudicated delinquency cases were grouped into three categories (commitment to DCF, probation, discharge) and are displayed below. There are too few girls at this point in the system to make some of the comparisons as indicated by the blank cells in the figure. Where comparisons can be made, there do not appear to be big differences in the final case dispositions for boys and girls.

**Court Disposition for Judicial Delinquency Cases  
by Most Serious Disposed Charge  
(2014-15)**

		Total*		Black		Hispanic		White	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
<b>Serious Juvenile Offense</b>	Committed to DCF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Probation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Discharged	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Base	100	8	40	5	26	1	33	2
<b>Non-SJO Felony</b>	Committed to DCF	11%	0%	-	-	-	-	9%	0%
	Probation	61%	73%	-	-	-	-	69%	60%
	Discharged	28%	27%	-	-	-	-	22%	40%
	Total	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	100%	100%
	Base	268	22	116	9	76	3	74	10
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	Committed to DCF	5%	3%	6%	4%	6%	4%	2%	0%
	Probation	59%	58%	58%	56%	63%	63%	58%	59%
	Discharged	36%	40%	35%	40%	31%	33%	40%	41%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Base	799	298	305	134	218	73	263	86
<b>Violation</b>	Committed to DCF	25%	24%	23%	18%	-	-	-	-
	Probation	39%	35%	52%	41%	-	-	-	-
	Discharged	36%	41%	26%	41%	-	-	-	-
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	-	-	-
	Base	59	29	31	17	16	4	12	7

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

Note: The percentages may appear to not total to 100% due to rounding. Some data are not displayed in this figure because the base size for girls is less than 10.

# Department of Children & Families

# DCF: Sample and Decisions Examined

## Sample

Juveniles who are adjudicated for their charges in juvenile court and determined to be in need of out-of-home placement are committed to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). DCF makes the decisions on which facilities the juvenile is placed in and for how long. DCF also supervises juveniles who are released on parole. To examine DCF decision making, data were obtained for a sample of juveniles who completed their commitment to DCF. In order to obtain a large enough sample, data were obtained for juveniles who completed a DCF commitment in January 2012 to mid-2016.

Raw movement data (i.e., every facility each juvenile was placed along with the admission and release dates) were examined for 510 juveniles of which 76 were girls. As there were only 6 girls committed for felony level offenses, the figures in this section of the report will only include data for misdemeanor and violation committing offenses.

**DCF Sample**

	January 2012-mid 2016			
	Most Serious Committing Offense			
	SJO	Non-SJO Felony	Misde- meanor	Violation
Boys	72	119	156	87
Girls	2	4	44	26
Total	74	123	200	113

## Decisions Examined

The decision points that will be examined for DCF are:

- At which type of facilities did the juvenile spend time?
- What percentage of the commitment was spent at the different type of facilities?
- What percentage of the DCF commitment is completed?



# DCF: Multivariate Analysis Factors

The factors included in the multivariate analyses for the DCF decision points are provided below.

<b>Socio-demographic</b>	<b>Most Serious Committing Offense Characteristics</b>	<b>Commitment Characteristics</b>
Age at Commitment	Person Charge	Dually Committed
Gender	Sex Charge	DCF Region
Race/Ethnicity	Weapon Charge	Committing Court
Neighborhood Characteristics*	Drug Charge	AWOL During Commitment
		Year of Commitment
		Recidivism Risk Score
		Incidents while at CJTS (as appropriate)

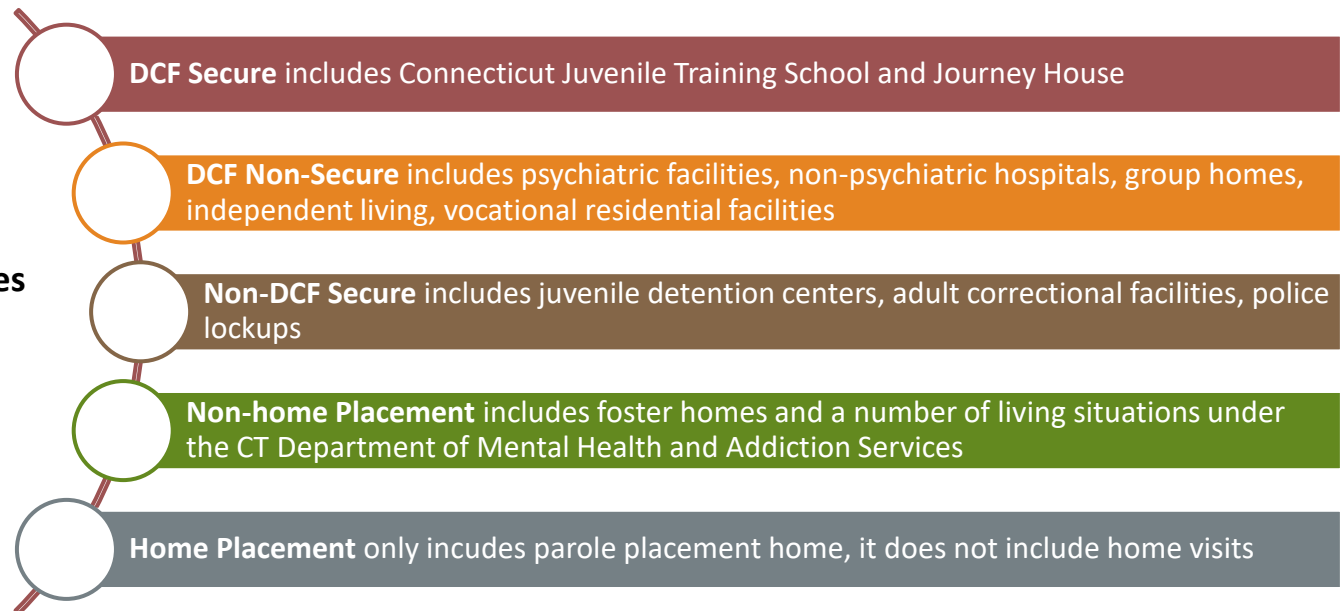
\* In an effort to assess the impact of poverty on decision making, Spectrum Associates utilized a geocoding and mapping software to assign neighborhood economic characteristics to each juvenile for which a home address was available (e.g., estimated percentage of households with < \$25,000 household income in 2015).

# DCF: First Placement Type

The figure on the next page displays the percentage of the juveniles who were placed in each type of placement for the first placement of their DCF commitment:

- For the total sample and within the race/ethnicity categories, boys were more likely to first be placed in a secure DCF juvenile justice facility while girls were more likely to be placed in a non-secure DCF facility.
- While the sample sizes (especially for girls) were small, multivariate analyses were conducted to determine if factors other than gender played a significant role in this decision point. Statistically strong models could not be produced, likely due to the small sample sizes and/or the information that was available for the analyses. Consequently, the differences by gender were not neutralized.

## DCF Placement Types



# DCF: First Placement Type (continued)

**First Placement of DCF Commitment  
by Most Serious Committing Offense  
(2012-16)**

		Total*		Black		Hispanic		White	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	DCF Secure Juvenile Justice Facilities **	56%	0%	67%	0%	63%	0%	32%	0%
	DCF Non-secure Juvenile Justice Facilities ***	39%	91%	30%	100%	34%	77%	59%	91%
	Non-DCF Secure Facilities ****	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Non-home Placement +	5%	9%	3%	0%	3%	23%	9%	9%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Base	156	44	77	20	35	13	44	11
<b>Violation</b>	DCF Secure Juvenile Justice Facilities **	53%	0%	63%	0%	-	-	32%	0%
	DCF Non-secure Juvenile Justice Facilities ***	42%	96%	31%	92%	-	-	64%	100%
	Non-DCF Secure Facilities ****	0%	4%	0%	8%	-	-	0%	0%
	Non-home Placement +	5%	0%	6%	0%	-	-	4%	0%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	-	100%	100%
	Base	87	26	35	13	30	1	22	12

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

\*\* The secure facility was the Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

\*\*\* Other DCF placements include psychiatric facilities, non-psychiatric hospitals, group homes, independent living, and vocational residential programs.

\*\*\*\* Non-DCF secure placements include juvenile detention centers, adult correctional facilities, and police lock-ups. One juvenile's first placement was a juvenile detention center.

+ Non-home placements include foster homes and a number of living situations under the CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services.

Note: The percentages may appear to not total to 100% due to rounding. Some data are not displayed in this figure because the base size for girls is less than 10.

# DCF: All Placements

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The figure on page 29 displays the percentage of the juveniles who were placed in each type of placement at some point during their DCF commitment:

- Boys were much more likely to be placed in a DCF secure placement during their DCF commitment while girls were much more likely to be placed in a DCF non-secure placement.
- A higher percentage of the boys were placed home during their DCF commitment while a higher percentage of the girls were placed in a non-home placement.
- These differences by gender were not neutralized by the multivariate analyses as either gender remained a significant factor or a statistically sound model could not be constructed with the data available.

# DCF: All Placements (continued)

**All Facilities Entered During DCF Commitment  
by Most Serious Committing Offense  
(2012-16)**

		Total*		Black		Hispanic		White	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	DCF Secure Juvenile Justice Facilities **	80%	9%	86%	5%	86%	15%	64%	9%
	DCF Non-secure Juvenile Justice Facilities ***	57%	96%	53%	95%	46%	100%	73%	91%
	Non-DCF Secure Facilities ****	23%	16%	31%	25%	23%	0%	9%	18%
	Non-home Placement +	9%	27%	7%	25%	3%	23%	18%	36%
	Home Placement ++	92%	80%	92%	75%	91%	85%	93%	82%
	Base	156	44	77	20	35	13	44	11
<b>Violation</b>	DCF Secure Juvenile Justice Facilities **	79%	8%	83%	15%	-	-	68%	0%
	DCF Non-secure Juvenile Justice Facilities ***	54%	100%	40%	100%	-	-	68%	100%
	Non-DCF Secure Facilities ****	22%	12%	29%	23%	-	-	18%	0%
	Non-home Placement +	10%	4%	14%	8%	-	-	14%	0%
	Home Placement ++	97%	77%	97%	62%	-	-	91%	92%
	Base	87	26	35	13	30	1	22	12

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

\*\* The secure facility was the Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

\*\*\* Other DCF placements include psychiatric facilities, non-psychiatric hospitals, group homes, independent living, and vocational residential programs.

\*\*\*\* Non-DCF secure placements include juvenile detention centers, adult correctional facilities, and police lock-ups.

+ Non-home placements include foster homes and a number of living situations under the CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services.

++ Home placement only includes parole placement at home, it does not include home visits.

Note: Some data are not displayed in this figure because the base size for girls is less than 10.

# DCF: Percent of Commitment at Placement Types

The figure on the next page displays the average percentage of their DCF commitment that juveniles spent in each type of placement:

- Boys spent a significantly higher percentage of their commitment at a DCF secure juvenile justice facility while girls spent a significantly higher percentage of their commitment at a DCF non-secure placement.
- While the analyses indicated that other factors sometimes play a significant role in the differences, the impact of gender was not neutralized.

# DCF: Percent of Commitment at Placement Types (continued)

**Mean Percent of Time Spent in Facility Types During DCF Commitment  
by Most Serious Committing Offense  
(2012-16)**

		Total*		Black		Hispanic		White	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	DCF Secure Juvenile Justice Facilities **	37%	1%	43%	0%	40%	3%	24%	1%
	DCF Non-secure Juvenile Justice Facilities ***	23%	64%	19%	69%	19%	66%	33%	54%
	Non-DCF Secure Facilities ****	4%	3%	6%	5%	2%	0%	1%	1%
	Non-home Placement +	3%	4%	2%	5%	1%	4%	5%	4%
	Home Placement ++	33%	26%	29%	20%	37%	24%	37%	39%
	Base	156	44	77	20	35	13	44	11
<b>Violation</b>	DCF Secure Juvenile Justice Facilities **	34%	1%	40%	2%	-	-	20%	0%
	DCF Non-secure Juvenile Justice Facilities ***	20%	58%	14%	55%	-	-	30%	64%
	Non-DCF Secure Facilities ****	3%	7%	4%	14%	-	-	3%	0%
	Non-home Placement +	4%	1%	5%	3%	-	-	6%	0%
	Home Placement ++	39%	30%	36%	25%	-	-	42%	34%
	Base	87	26	35	13	30	1	22	12

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

\*\* The secure facility was the Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

\*\*\* Other DCF placements include psychiatric facilities, non-psychiatric hospitals, group homes, independent living, and vocational residential programs.

\*\*\*\* Non-DCF secure placements include juvenile detention centers, adult correctional facilities, and police lock-ups.

+ Non-home placements include foster homes and a number of living situations under the CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services.

++ Home placement only includes parole placement at home, it does not include home visits.

Note: Some data are not displayed in this figure because the base size for girls is less than 10.

# DCF: Percent of Commitment Completed

There was not disparity in the percent of the DCF commitment between boys and girls.

**Percent of DCF Commitment Completed  
by Most Serious Committing Offense  
(2012-16)**

	Total*		Black		Hispanic		White	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>	100%	100%	95%	92%	97%	100%
Base	156	44	77	20	35	13	44	11
<b>Violation</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	100%	100%	-	-	100%	100%
Base	87	26	35	13	30	1	22	12

\* The total column includes juveniles of other race/ethnicity or with missing race/ethnicity data.

Note: Some data are not displayed in this figure because the base size for girls is less than 10.



# Findings Summary

# Findings Summary

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Across the Connecticut juvenile justice system, more often than not, there were similar decision outcomes for boys and girls. The specific decision points where differences by gender were found (and not neutralized) are displayed below.

## Police

- White **boys** apprehended for a misdemeanor charge were more likely to be brought to the police station/barrack than were similarly charged girls.

## Court

- FWSN case handling – **girls** were more likely to have their FWSN case handled judicially
- FWSN case outcome – **boys** were more likely to receive supervision
- Delinquency case handling – **boys** referred to juvenile court for a misdemeanor were more likely to have their case handled judicially
- Judicial delinquency case outcome – **boys** referred to court for a misdemeanor were more likely to be adjudicated for their case

## DCF

- For first placement, all placements and the average amount of the commitment spent at a type of facility – **boys** were more likely to be at a secure DCF placement and **girls** were more likely to be at a DCF non-secure placement