An Assessment for Disproportionate Minority Contact among Juveniles in Idaho 2009-2011

Prepared for the Idaho
Department of Juvenile Corrections

by

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Executive Summary

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act of 2002 requires participating states to monitor and address Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), a situation in which juveniles belonging to racial or ethnic minority groups are treated differently than White youth throughout the juvenile justice system. A Relative Rate Index (RRI) is used as a comparative measure to determine the presence or absence of DMC such that a value of 1.00 represents no DMC and a value markedly above or below a value of 1.00 represents the presence of DMC. A 2009 study examining factors that predict case disposition in the juvenile justice system in Canyon County, Idaho, found that although a RRI suggested the presence of DMC such that Hispanic juveniles were more often arrested and detained than White juveniles, race/ethnicity was not an independent predictor of these outcomes after controlling for other factors, including age, gender, gang affiliation, and crime level. Instead it was found that gang affiliation was the significant predictor, and because race/ethnicity and gang affiliation were confounded (with Hispanic juveniles much more likely to be affiliated with a gang than White juveniles), differences in gang affiliation appeared to be the cause of apparent DMC.

The present assessment was a replication and extension of what was previously performed in Canyon County; it involved gathering a sample of arrest cases from two counties (Canyon and Twin Falls counties) large enough to be representative of all juvenile arrest cases in Idaho. Focusing only on the point of arrest, the research team sought to determine whether there were personal or crime characteristics confounded with race/ethnicity that could (as gang affiliation did in the 2009 Canyon County study) explain the higher rates of arrests for Hispanic juveniles relative to White juveniles.

In this study, the researchers utilized a mixed-method approach, gathering both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data were obtained through extraction of information from juvenile arrest cases from four law enforcement agencies in two counties, whereas qualitative data were gathered in focus group and internet-based interviews. The quantitative data were analyzed individually by year for 2009, 2010, and 2011, as well as for the three years combined.

The key findings from each of the three years of study as well as the three years in aggregate are presented below.

2009

- The statewide RRI in 2009 was 1.82, meaning that Hispanic juveniles were 1.82 times more likely to be arrested than White juveniles
- 1,177 arrest records were analyzed
- Race/ethnicity was significantly associated with gender, gang affiliation, known drug/alcohol use, crime type, and location of arrest
- Logistic regression analysis revealed that after controlling for shared variance, arrested Hispanic juveniles were 10.0 times more likely than arrested White juveniles to be affiliated with a gang, nearly 56% less likely to be arrested at their home than in ‘other’ locations, and over 62% less likely to be arrested for drug and alcohol crimes than ‘other’ crimes

2010

- The statewide RRI in 2010 was 1.60, meaning that Hispanic juveniles were 1.60 times more likely to be arrested than White juveniles
- 1,146 arrest records were analyzed
- Race/ethnicity was significantly associated with gender and gang affiliation
- Logistic regression analysis revealed that after controlling for shared variance, arrested Hispanic juveniles were 4.66 times more likely than arrested White juveniles to be affiliated with a gang

2011

- The statewide RRI in 2011 was 1.08, meaning that Hispanic juveniles were 1.08 times more likely to be arrested than White juveniles
- 1,204 arrest records were analyzed
- Race/ethnicity was significantly associated with gang affiliation, known drug/alcohol use, and crime type
- Logistic regression analysis revealed that after controlling for shared variance, arrested Hispanic juveniles were 4.50 times more likely than arrested White juveniles to be affiliated with a gang

2009-2011

- The statewide RRI between 2009-2011 was 1.50, meaning that Hispanic juveniles were 1.50 times more likely to be arrested than White juveniles
- 3,527 arrest records were analyzed
- Race/ethnicity was significantly associated with gender, gang affiliation, known drug/alcohol use, crime type, and location of arrest
- Logistic regression analysis revealed that after controlling for shared variance, arrested Hispanic juveniles were 6.10 times more likely than arrested White juveniles to be affiliated with a gang, 28% less likely to be arrested for drug/alcohol crimes than for 'other' crimes, and 1.3 times more likely to be arrested at school than at 'other' locations

Qualitative analysis via focus group interviews and online surveys provided additional context to the quantitative results. Most participants reported that they contact juveniles frequently, many on a daily basis. It was evident that the location and purpose of contact varied from one participant to the next; however, a common desire to build positive, supportive relationships with juveniles was expressed or agreed upon by many participants. It was found that criminal history, diversion resource availability, and crime type were largely influential in officers' decisions to arrest or release a juvenile upon contact. Some participants also reported that parenting culture was a factor taken into account, such that they were less likely to arrest a juvenile if his or her parent/guardian seemed willing and likely to discipline the juvenile and address the problem. Participants suggested multiple various explanations to high RRI rates within their areas and claimed that there is currently no need for DMC-focused training in their county.

Background

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) refers to a situation in which juveniles belonging to minority racial/ethnic groups are treated differently than White youth at one or more decision points (e.g., arrest, disposition of cases involving secure detention) of the case disposition process in the juvenile justice system. One key feature of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act of 2002 is that participating states must investigate for DMC in their respective juvenile justice systems, and address the issue if DMC is found to exist (Howard & McDonald, 2013).

Determinations regarding whether or not DMC exists in a jurisdiction such as a city, county, or state ordinarily involves the calculation of a Relative Rate Index (RRI), which in a DMC context involving juvenile arrests can be expressed as follows: Arrest rate for Non-White juveniles per 1,000 / Arrest rate for White juveniles per 1,000 (Lind, Miller, Carver, & McDonald, 2010). If there is no evidence of DMC, the RRI would have a value at or very near 1.00 (Non-White and White juveniles would be equally likely to be arrested, given their proportion of the population). RRIs with positive numbers deviating markedly from 1.00 provide evidence for DMC (as Non-White juveniles would be more likely to be arrested than White juveniles, given their proportion of the population), whereas RRIs with negative numbers deviating markedly from 1.00 would provide evidence that White juveniles were more likely to be arrested than Non-White juveniles, given their proportion of the population.

In 2009, the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) contracted with researchers at Boise State University's (BSU) Center for Health Policy (CHP) to collect and analyze data to understand the extent to which DMC existed in Canyon County, Idaho. Canyon County was assessed alone (i.e., not with other counties) largely because most Idaho counties do not have enough minority youth to meaningfully calculate comparisons. Prior to the DMC assessment, IDJC staff had conducted analyses of 2005 data indicating that Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely than White juveniles to have contact with the juvenile justice system at several decision points; specifically, it was found that "Hispanic or Latino youths in Canyon County were almost twice as likely to be arrested as White youths, and they were 38% more likely to be sent to secure detention. "Hispanic youths were also 81% more likely than White youths to be sent to a juvenile correctional facility" (Lind et al., 2010, p. 2). Using a large sample of the 2005 data, the BSU CHP researchers conducted multiple logistic regression analyses to determine whether race/ethnicity (White vs. Non-White; the latter category was overwhelmingly Hispanic but also included five African-American and four Native American juveniles) or six other potential predictor variables predicted case dispositions at six levels. The six other potential predictor variables included: 1) age; 2) gender; 3) gang affiliation; 4) felony crime; 5) weapon used; and 6) arresting agency. The six levels of case disposition included: 1) any charge (vs. not charged); 2) immediate release (vs. any type of referral); 3) sent to detention; 4) given probation; 5) offered diversion; and 6) offered any type of program (e.g., counseling, anger management, drug evaluation, etc.) (Lind et al., 2010, p. 9). The results of the logistic regression analyses showed that race/ethnicity failed to emerge as an independent predictor of case disposition at any of the six measured levels. The most consistent predictor of case disposition was gang affiliation. The BSU CHP researchers concluded that the primary reason that Non-White (overwhelmingly Hispanic) juveniles were treated differently than White juveniles at several levels of case disposition was that the Non-White juveniles were significantly more likely to have a gang

affiliation (31.5%) than White juveniles (10.9%). In other words, the results strongly suggested that the reason Non-White juveniles were treated differently than White juveniles at several decision points in the case disposition process was not because they were racial/ethnic minorities, but rather because they were more often affiliated with gangs (Howard & McDonald, 2013; Lind et al., 2010).

In 2013, IDJC again contracted with researchers at the BSU CHP to conduct an analysis of DMC; this time, the goal was to sample enough juvenile arrest cases to represent the entire state of Idaho. Following guidelines recommended by William Feyerherm ("Preparing for Assessment – Idaho", n.d.), a consultant working with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and a DMC expert, the joint research team chose to study factors associated with arrest of Hispanic and White youth in three Idaho counties with enough Hispanic youth to make appropriate comparisons; these counties included Bonneville County in South-eastern Idaho, Canyon County in South-western Idaho, and Twin Falls County in South-central Idaho. Meeting with law enforcement officials in each county resulted in a willingness to participate by the City of Twin Falls Police Department (TFPD), County of Twin Falls Sheriff's Department (TFSD), City of Caldwell Police Department (CPD), City of Nampa Police Department (NPD), and Canyon County Sheriff's Department (CCSD). Law enforcement agencies in Bonneville County noted several barriers to the sharing of information to the extent IDJC determined there would not be ample time to address them within the timeline for publication of this report. Issues raised included limitations of data-sharing agreements, background checks of data collection personnel and members of the evaluation team, and court authorization for information sharing (Canyon County invested months to secure a court order for the 2009 study). Because a representative sample could be extracted from the other two data collection sites, IDJC decided to omit Bonneville County data from this report.

Data were collected through multiple methods described more fully in the Methodology section of this report. These included receiving data sets for all arrested juveniles in both counties for the years 2009-2011, supplemental data collection for juveniles in Canyon County by an employee of the Canyon County Juvenile Probation Department, focus group interviews of law enforcement officers from TFPD, and web-based surveys of law enforcement officers from CPD, NPD, and CCSD. The results of these data collection efforts, and subsequent analyses, are summarized in this report.

Methodology

The methodology for this study was guided by several different sources of influence. One was the 2009 study of factors related to DMC in Canyon County by CHP researcher Bonnie Lind and her colleagues (Lind et al., 2010). This effort was successful in gathering data and performing analysis sufficient to not only comment on factors related to DMC in Canyon County, but also to guide efforts to reduce DMC among Hispanic juveniles (in particular, those at risk for affiliation with gangs). Another was the "Preparing for Assessment – Idaho" report written by OJJDP consultant William Feyerherm, which had valuable guidelines for a statewide assessment of DMC; specific suggestions utilized from the report involved assessing DMC in Hispanic juveniles only (rather than members of other racial/ethnic minorities that were often too few to yield reliable results), to focus on a few counties with a relatively high concentration of Hispanic youth, and to focus on the point of arrest as the unit of analysis in Idaho's DMC assessment. A third was the collaboration among key stakeholders, including Alan Miller, the statewide DMC Coordinator with IDJC, advisory persons serving on the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission, and law enforcement officers who vetted materials and made suggestions for improving the data collection process.

Prior to the commencement of the study, Mr. Miller—usually accompanied by members of the CHP research team—met with law enforcement officers including city police chiefs and county sheriffs (as well as juvenile probation officers and information technology or IT personnel, in several cases) to discuss the proposed study and to invite participation. Officials in Twin Falls and Canyon Counties enthusiastically agreed to participate, whereas officials in Bonneville County expressed concerns about the accessibility and confidentiality of the data. After participation was agreed upon, the CHP research team worked directly with the law enforcement officers and their designated IT staff to determine how best to collect data.

Quantitative Data

The primary data collected for this study included cases of juveniles who had been arrested by one of the participating law enforcement agencies during the years 2009-2011. The critical data elements (see Appendix A) were gleaned largely from those used by Lind et al. (2010) in their earlier study in Canyon County, and included the following:

- Age at Time of Arrest
- Gender (Male; Female)
- Race/Ethnicity (White; Hispanic)
- Gang Affiliation (No; Yes; Unknown)
- Known Drug/Alcohol User (No; Yes)
- Crime Type (Sex Offense; Persons; Property; Drug and Alcohol; Traffic; 'Other')
- Crime Level (Not Felony; Felony)
- Whether a Weapon Was Involved (No; Yes)
- Geographic Location of Violation (School; Park; Home; Store; 'Other')
- Physical Address of Violation
- Time of Day of Violation (12:00 a.m.-5:59 a.m.; 6:00 a.m.-11:59 a.m.; 12:00 p.m.-5:59 p.m.; 6:00 p.m.-11:59 p.m.)

The data provided to the research team varied from department to department and data editing was needed for nearly every set of data. The edits made by the research team are summarized below.

- In cases in which all Race/Ethnicity cases were listed as White, data were returned to the appropriate IT department for investigation and correction. One department's data set consisted entirely of juveniles identified as White and thus was rendered unusable for the purposes of this project. These data were ultimately excluded from analysis.
- Some data fields were excluded entirely, in which case the data sets were returned and clarification was provided to the appropriate IT personnel regarding the data needed.
- Some types of desired data were not tracked by the agencies. This issue was resolved (as discussed further below) in Canyon County by enlisting an employee from the Canyon County Juvenile Probation Department to manually access juvenile files and probation records to complete data fields.
- In cases in which IT personnel included personal identifying information such as juveniles' names or addresses, data were returned immediately and it was requested that these personnel remove all identifying information.
    - One exception to this was the inclusion of juveniles' dates of births from one agency, in order to calculate age at time of arrest. The dates of birth were promptly deleted after age at time of arrest was documented.
- Some data cases contained arresting officer identifiers; this information was removed.
- Some data cases denoted that the contact did not result in an arrest, in which case the data were returned and it was requested that only juvenile arrest data be included.
- One arrest case was removed because the Race/Ethnicity field was coded incorrectly (as neither White nor Hispanic).
- In cases in which one arrest led to multiple citations, only the most serious citation was used for analysis, while the other(s) were excluded.
    - To create a hierarchy of crime severity, CHP research staff, Mr. Miller, and the Chief of CPD collaborated to determine the following crime coding algorithm, from most to least serious:
        - Felony Sex Offense
        - Felony Offense Against Persons
        - Felony Offense Against Property
        - Felony Drug and Alcohol Offense
        - Felony Traffic Offense
        - Felony 'Other' Offense
        - Misdemeanor Sex Offense
        - Misdemeanor Offense Against Persons
        - Misdemeanor Offense Against Property
        - Misdemeanor Drug and Alcohol Offense
        - Misdemeanor Traffic Offense
        - Misdemeanor 'Other' Offense
- TFPD data contained numeric codes ranging from 1 to 25, which corresponded to the location of arrest. Decoding information was provided by the department and the CHP research team translated codes into those appropriate for the purpose of data analysis as seen in Appendix A.

- Arrest times were used to create time codes described above (numeric code from 1-4).
- With assistance from Mr. Miller, labeled crimes (e.g., shoplifting, sexual assault, vandalism, speeding) were converted into numeric codes appropriate for analysis.
- Some data were received in aggregate form covering several years, in which case CHP researchers separated the data into individual files by year.
- Some data fields were merged (i.e., data needed for two variables were compressed into one), in which case the CHP research assistants separated them into two separate data fields.

Because a goal for the study was to gather data from a sufficiently large number of juvenile arrests to generalize what was found to the entire state, a system for generating a representative sample was developed. First, the researchers took the total number of juvenile arrests in Idaho for each year, which included 13,944, 12,546, and 12,677 for years 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively. Then, using a sample size calculator (available at: http://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm), it was determined that the sample size needed for each year, to be considered representative with a 95% confidence level and a 3% confidence interval or margin of error (both scientific standards), would need to include at least 991, 984, and 984 juvenile arrest cases for 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively. Because there were far more juvenile arrest cases from the Canyon County agencies than the Twin Falls County agencies (more than three times more, for all years), it was decided to use all available cases that could be provided from the Twin Falls County agencies, and a representative sample of cases from the Canyon County agencies, stratified proportionally by agency (e.g., if 30% of the arrests for a given year were made by Agency A, 30% of the cases randomly selected for analysis from that year would be from Agency A).

Below is an example of how a representative sample was drawn from Canyon County in 2009. Calculations were made similarly for years 2010 and 2011.

<u>2009 Canyon County:</u>

- 1,799 total juvenile arrests by CCSD, CPD, and NPD combined (there were an additional 175 juvenile arrests in the county, but these were distributed among several small town police departments and not included in the study)
- 670 cases from all agencies needed in sample to assure 95% confidence level and 3% confidence interval (margin of error)
- 612 cases provided in a combined database from CCSD and CPD
- 612/1,799 = .34 or 34%, approximately the proportion of Canyon County juvenile arrests made by these agencies
- .34*670 = 227 cases were needed for analysis
- Several dozen additional cases were deemed desirable to provide insurance against missing data
- 265 cases were randomly selected for analysis
    - The remaining 66% of cases, plus several dozen for insurance purposes, were randomly drawn from data submitted by NPD

Each case was assigned a generic number from one to the total number of cases (612 in the above example for the combined data for CCSD and CPD). Upon random subset generation, the 265 selected cases were highlighted for use. IT personnel from the appropriate agencies then extracted the necessary data from their respective databases and provided the data in Excel files to the CHP researchers.

All data from Canyon County (including both Nampa and Caldwell PDs) were missing four variable fields: Gang Affiliation, Known Drug/Alcohol Use, Whether a Weapon was Involved, and Location of Violation. Once cases were selected for use, the CHP research team sent the data to Mr. Jake Lewandowski, an employee of the Canyon County Juvenile Probation Department who was contracted with to complete the data sets using juvenile probation files which CHP personnel and CCSD, CPD, and NPD IT personnel were unable to access. Mr. Lewandowski completed the data sets as thoroughly as possible and returned the data to the CHP team. In all, more juvenile arrest cases than required for a representative sample were captured for analysis during each year (+57, +41, and +60 for 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively).

As noted earlier, because there were substantially fewer juvenile arrest cases from the two law enforcement agencies in Twin Falls County, the original plan was to collect all cases from those two agencies. Unexpectedly, however, it was found that TFSD coded its juvenile arrest cases by race but not ethnicity; therefore, nearly all Hispanic juveniles were noted in the data system as White. Therefore, it was determined that data from TFSD were unusable for the purposes of this study. Fortunately, enough data cases were provided by TFPD (450, 449, and 466 in 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively), when combined with the data submitted from agencies in Canyon County, to exceed the requirements for sample representativeness at the state level (in 2009, at least 991 juvenile arrest cases were needed and 1,177 were analyzed; in 2010, at least 984 cases were needed and 1,146 were analyzed; and in 2011, at least 984 cases were needed and 1,204 were analyzed).

The data that were submitted by TFPD were more limited in certain respects than those from Canyon County primarily because there was no one hired (as Mr. Lewandowski had in Canyon County) to manually search through juvenile probation records to find information not ordinarily captured in law enforcement officers' arrest records. The two pieces of information that could not be captured from TFPD's records were Gang Affiliation and Known Drug/Alcohol User, meaning that all analyses using these variables would come strictly from records collected in Canyon County.

Qualitative Data

In recognition that arrest numbers, juvenile demographics, and RRI calculations do not tell the complete story about how law enforcement personnel such as police officers and sheriff's deputies interact with youth, the CHP research team, in consultation with Mr. Miller and police chiefs and sheriffs, developed four questions designed to be asked in a focus group interview format with small groups of law enforcement officers. The four questions (see Appendix B) asked about: 1) the level of interaction officers had with juveniles in their work; 2) what factors most impact their decisions regarding whether to arrest a juvenile; 3) what they thought affected

the RRI in their county between 2009-2011; and 4) whether they felt there is a need to address racial or ethnic disparities in juvenile justice at a larger scale in their county.

The intended protocol for creating the focus groups included the following:

- Police chiefs/sheriffs would create a list of officers/deputies to participate in interviews. Nominated individuals must have served at the agencies between 2009 and 2011. Using a random number generator, CHP staff would randomly select 10-14 officers from each county.
- Two focus groups would be held in each county, with 5-7 officers in each focus group.
- The focus groups would be attended by two CHP researchers skilled in qualitative research, along with other note-takers as appropriate.

The intended protocol was followed when working with the TFPD (because it had already been determined that no quantitative data could be used from TFSD, deputies from that department were also not interviewed). Two focus groups were conducted at municipal buildings used by the TFPD. Each focus group interview lasted approximately 50 minutes. Participants were assigned identification numbers to maintain participant anonymity. Each focus group consisted of five patrol officers (POs) and two school resource officers (SROs). The senior CHP researcher informed participants of the background and purpose of the study and facilitated the discussions while other team members took notes and occasionally asked questions for clarification. Notes from each focus group were transcribed and combined to highlight themes, numerations and key findings from each discussion. A content analysis procedure was used to analyze the results.

The intended protocol was not followed in Canyon County. After a substantial delay in which neither the police chief nor sheriff responded to two invitations to have their departments participate in focus groups, personnel at IDJC helped facilitate the process, which resulted in seven officers/deputies contacting the principal investigator and volunteering to be interviewed. Due to scheduling problems and an impending report deadline, it was agreed to have the officers/deputies answer the four questions in an internet survey format (using Qualtrics software hosted on the BSU server). All seven officers/deputies were sent an invitation and link to complete the survey, and five (three POs and two SROs) completed the survey within a one-week period. Their responses to the four questions were analyzed the same way as the officers from TFPD, and the data were aggregated for final analysis.

The group of participants selected to participate in the interviews and online surveys seems to be a representative sample of officers from the two counties of study. The participants' reported histories within the departments show a great deal of experience in and familiarity with their respective locales and the interactions of officers with juveniles, lending considerable confidence to the quality of information that was captured during interview and survey analysis. The participants' demographics are as documented below:

- Gender: two females (10.5%), 17 males (89.5%)
- Race: 17 participants self-identified as White (89.5%), one participant self-identified as White-Hispanic (5.3%), and one participant did not self-identify race (5.3%)
- Occupation: 13 participants were POs (68.4%), six were SROs (31.6%)

- Ethnicity: 17 participants did not self-identify ethnicity (89.5%), one participant self-identified as Mexican (5.3%), and one participant self-identified as Bosnian (5.3%)
- Years in current position: Ranged from 2-22 years
- Years working with juveniles: Ranged from 2-28 years
- Frequency of contact with juveniles: 14 participants (73.7%) reported contacting juveniles often/on a daily basis, five participants (26.3%) reported seldom contacting juveniles

Quantitative data were collected from the departments, at staggered intervals, between January and March 2014. Qualitative data were collected in February 2014.

Results

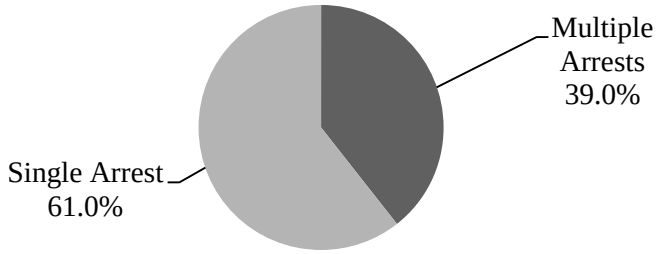
Quantitative Data

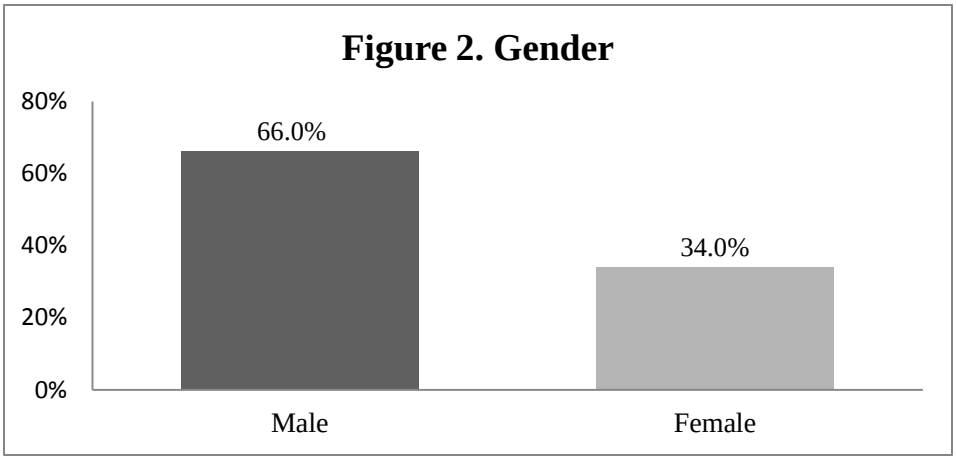
2009

The following descriptive results were obtained from data analysis of 1,177 juvenile arrest records from 2009:

Regarding **multiple arrests**, nearly 61% of juveniles arrested were only arrested one time during 2009, whereas over 39% were arrested more than one time during 2009 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Multiple Arrests

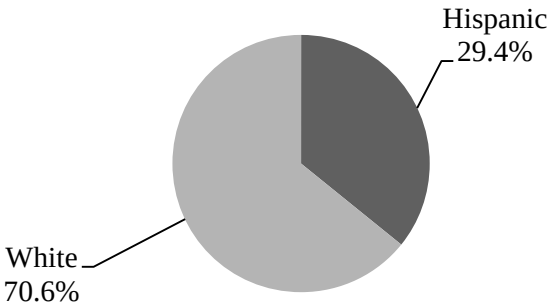


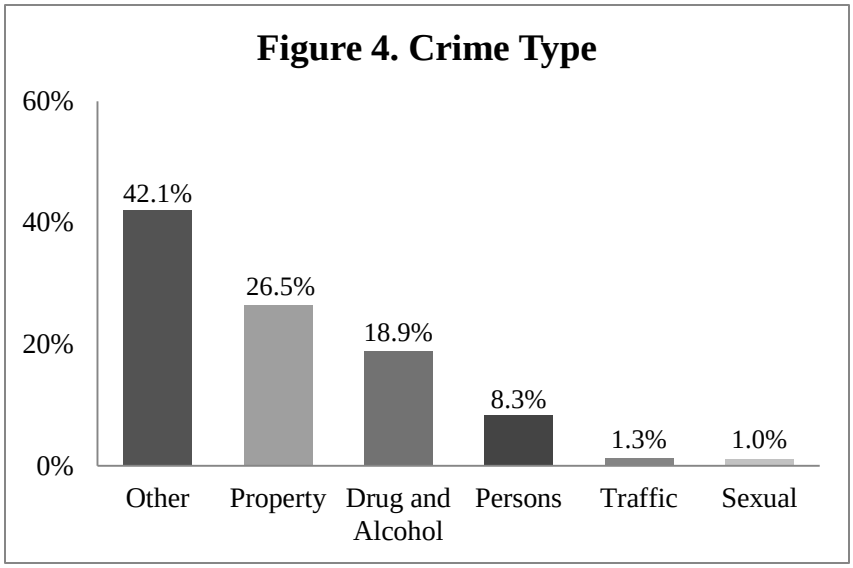


Regarding **gender**, nearly two-thirds of juveniles arrested were male, whereas over one-third were female (see Figure 2).

Regarding **race/ethnicity**, nearly 71% of juveniles arrested were White, whereas over 29% were Hispanic (see Figure 3).

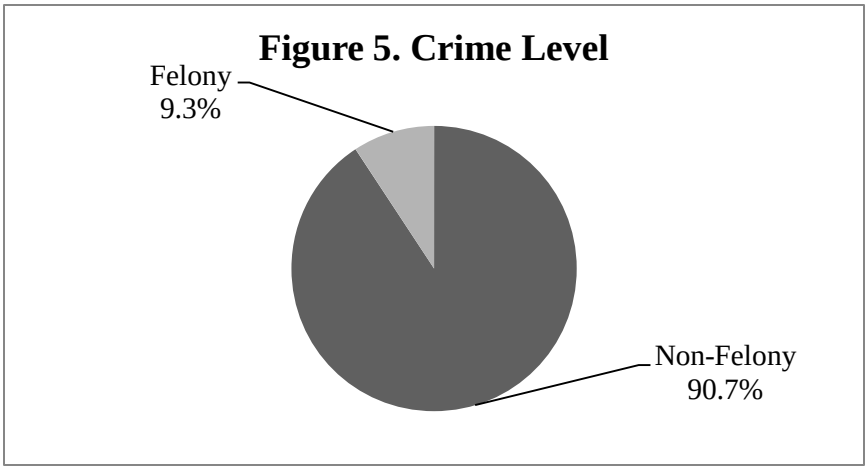
Figure 3. Race/Ethnicity

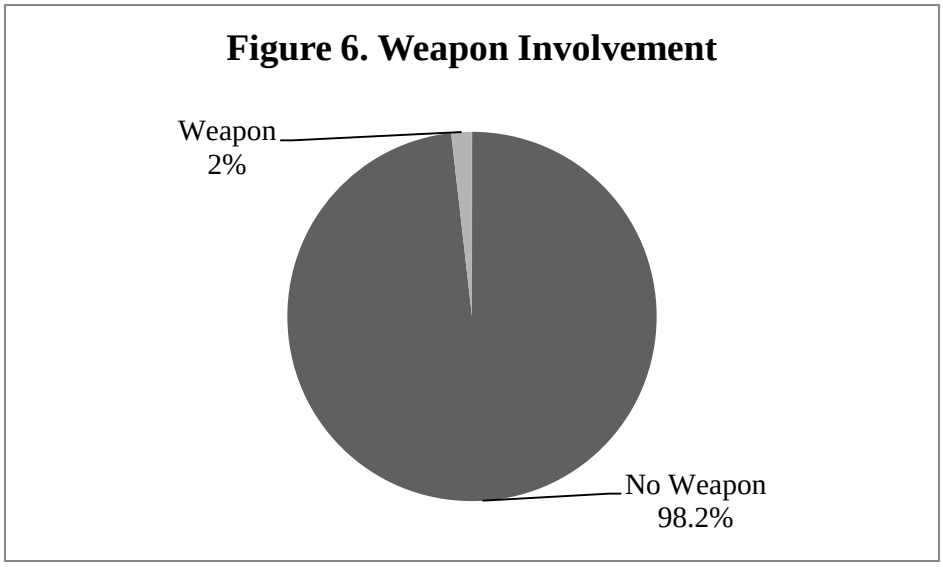




Regarding **crime type**, nearly 43% of juvenile arrests that included crime types were classified as 'other,' whereas 27% were property crimes, over 19% were drug and alcohol crimes, nearly 9% were crimes against persons, over 1% were traffic crimes, 1% were sexual offense crimes (see Figure 4). Just under 2% of all cases had no record reported regarding crime type.

Regarding **crime level**, nearly 91% of juvenile arrests that included crime level were classified as non-felony crimes, whereas over 9% were classified as felony crimes (see Figure 5). Less than 12% of all cases had no record reported regarding crime level.





Regarding the **involvement of a weapon**, over 98% of all juvenile arrests that included weapon involvement did not involve a weapon, whereas nearly 2% did involve a weapon (see Figure 6). Less than 1% of all cases had no record reported regarding weapon involvement.

Regarding **location**, nearly 31% of all arrests that included location occurred at the juveniles' homes, whereas nearly 31% occurred at a location specified as 'other', nearly 22% occurred in a store, nearly 16% occurred at a school, and over 1% occurred at a park (see Figure 7). Less than 3% had no record reported regarding location of arrest.

Figure 7. Location

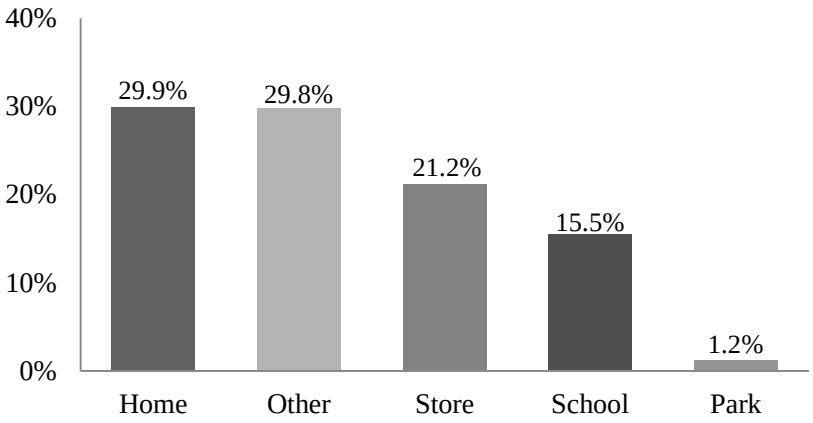
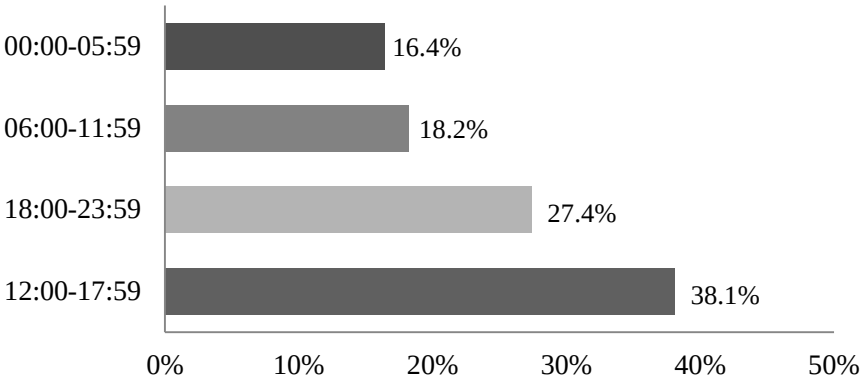


Figure 8. Time of Arrest



Regarding **time of arrest**, slightly over 38% of juvenile arrests were made between 12:00 p.m. and 5:59 p.m., whereas more than 27% were made from 6:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m., over 18% were made from 6:00 a.m. and 11:59 a.m., and over 16% were made from 12:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m. (see Figure 8).

Regarding the **age of juveniles arrested**, slight more than 26% were 17, nearly 26% were 16, more than 20% were 15, just over 12% were 14, nearly 8% were 13, over 4% were 12, nearly 2% were 11, and less than 1% each were 10, 9, 8 and 7, respectively (see Figure 9).

Figure 9. Age of Juvenile at Arrest

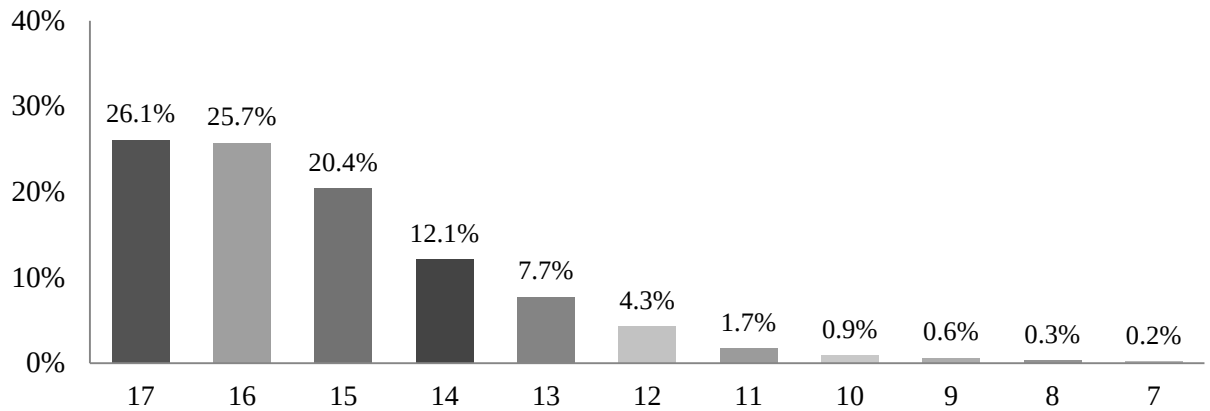
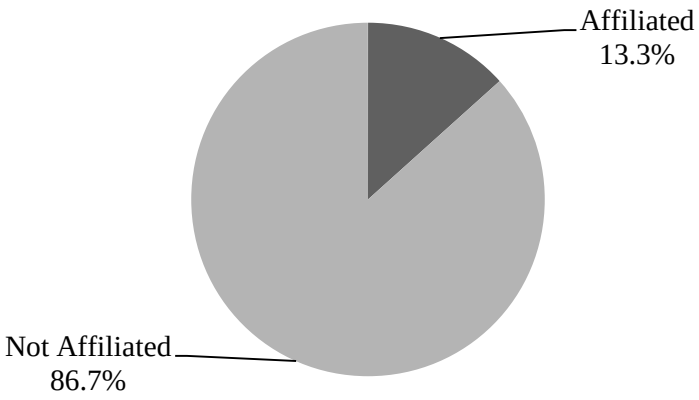


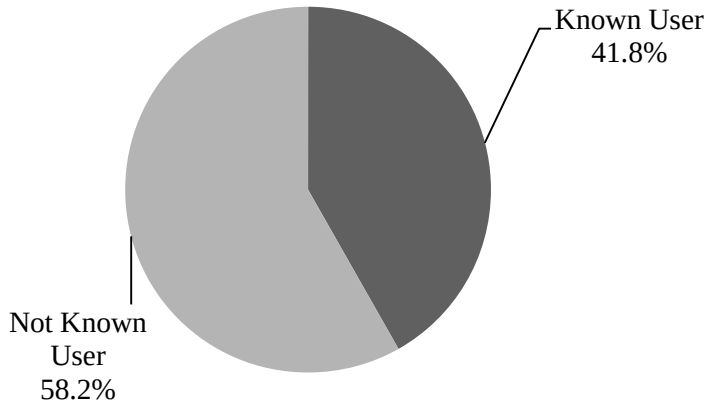
Figure 10. Gang Affiliation



Regarding **gang affiliation**, nearly 87% of juveniles arrested for whom gang affiliation information was noted were not affiliated with a gang, whereas over 13% were affiliated with a gang (see Figure 10). Nearly 39% had no record reported regarding gang affiliation.

Regarding **known drug and alcohol use**, over 58% of juveniles arrested for whom known drug/alcohol use information was noted did not have a record of known drug or alcohol use, whereas nearly 42% did have a record of known drug and alcohol use (see Figure 11). Nearly 36% had no record reported regarding known drug/alcohol use.

Figure 11. Drug and Alcohol Use



In 2009, the statewide **Relative Rate Index** calculated by IDJC was 1.82, meaning that Hispanic juveniles were 1.82 times more likely to be arrested than White juveniles. To assess for participant characteristics of arrested juveniles that could possibly at least partially explain the elevated RRI, a battery of chi-square analyses were conducted crossing race/ethnicity with nominally-scored participant characteristic variables, with the exception of age, which was analyzed using an independent-samples t-test. All analyses were conducted with an alpha level of .05 (the results of these analyses are presented below in Table 1). As seen in Table 1, five participant characteristics of arrested juveniles were significantly associated with race/ethnicity, including: 1) gender; 2) gang affiliation; 3) known drug/alcohol use; 4) crime type; and 5) location of arrest. Each of these findings is explored in greater depth below.

Table 1: Significance of Differences in Participant Characteristics Of Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity	
Participant Characteristic	**Significance of Result: Probability (*p*) Value**
Multiple Arrests	.75
Gender	**.01**
Gang Affiliation	**< .001**
Drug/Alcohol User	**.05**
Crime Type	**.02**
Crime Level	.32
Weapon Involvement	.68
Location of Arrest	**< .01**
Time of Arrest	.68
Age	.12

Note. Significant *p* values are in bold font.

As seen below in Table 2, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be male than arrested White juveniles. Because males were more often arrested than females in 2009, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during this year.

Table 2: Gender Differences in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Gender of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Male	63.8	71.4	66.0
Female	36.2	28.6	34.0

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and gender information was available.

As seen below in Table 3, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be affiliated with a gang than arrested White juveniles. Because those affiliated with gangs may be more likely to be arrested than those not affiliated with gangs, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2009.

Table 3: Differences in Gang Affiliation in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Gang Affiliation of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Affiliated with a Gang	5.1	32.1	13.3
Not Affiliated with a Gang	94.9	67.9	86.7

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and gang affiliation information was available.

As seen below in Table 4, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be a known drug/alcohol user than arrested White juveniles. Because those with known drug/alcohol users may be more likely to be arrested than those without known drug/alcohol problems, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2009.

Table 4: Differences in Known Drug/Alcohol Use in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity

Known Drug/Alcohol Use by Arrested Juvenile	White	Hispanic	Total
Yes	39.4	47.2	41.8
No	60.6	52.8	58.2

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and known drug/alcohol use information was available.

As seen below in Table 5, the type of crimes committed by arrested Hispanic and White juveniles differed. Among the more prevalent crime types, Hispanic juveniles tended to be more often arrested for 'other' offenses and property crimes, whereas White juveniles tended to be more often arrested for drug/alcohol crimes and crimes against persons. Because they were proportionally overrepresented in the two largest arrest categories ('other' offenses and property crimes), this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2009. Among the less prevalent crime types, White juveniles were more often arrested for sex crimes whereas Hispanic juveniles were more often arrested for traffic offenses.

Table 5: Differences in Crime Type in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity

Crime Type of Arrested Juvenile	White	Hispanic	Total
Sex Crimes	1.3	.03	1.0
Crimes Against Persons	9.4	6.2	8.5
Crimes Against Property	26.1	29.1	27.0
Drug/Alcohol Crimes	20.9	15.6	19.3
Traffic Offenses	1.0	2.1	1.3
'Other' Offenses	41.2	46.8	42.9

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and crime type information was available.

As seen below in Table 6, the location of crimes committed by arrested Hispanic and White juveniles differed. Among the more prevalent crime locations, Hispanic juveniles tended to be more often than arrested in stores and 'other' locations than White juveniles, whereas White juveniles tended to be more often arrested in their homes and schools than Hispanic juveniles. Because more arrests took place in stores and 'other' locations than in homes and schools, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2009.

Table 6: Differences in Crime Location in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Crime Location of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
School	16.8	13.9	15.9
Park	1.4	0.9	1.2
Home	33.4	23.9	30.6
Store	20.1	25.7	21.7
'Other'	28.4	35.7	30.5

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and crime location information was available.

A logistic regression analysis was performed to assess which, if any, of the factors significantly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity remained significantly associated after controlling for variance shared among them. The analysis revealed that three of the five variables remained significantly associated, whereas two (Gender and Known Drug/Alcohol User) were no longer significantly associated after accounting for shared variance. The three remaining significantly associated variables, in order of strength of association, included the following:

- Gang Affiliation (Wald = 64.93, $p < .001$). This association consisted of arrested Hispanic juveniles being 10.0 times more likely to be affiliated with a gang than arrested White juveniles.
- Crime Location (Wald = 15.04, $p < .01$). This association consisted of Hispanic juveniles being nearly 56% less likely to be arrested at home than in 'other' locations (the referent category), compared to White juveniles.
- Crime Type (Wald = 13.01, $p < .05$). This association consisted of Hispanic juveniles being over 62% less likely to be arrested for drug/alcohol crimes than for 'other' crimes (the referent category), compared to White juveniles.

Together, Gang Affiliation, Crime Location, and Crime Type could explain approximately 16% of the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity (Cox & Snell $R^2 = .16$).

Because two of the measured variables, including the variable most strongly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity (Gang Affiliation), were measured in only one of the two counties, the logistic regression analysis was conducted again, this time with all of the variables except Gang Affiliation and Drug/Alcohol Use. When the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity accounted for by these variables was not controlled for, Gender emerged as a significant predictor of juvenile race/ethnicity (Wald = 7.86, $p < .01$), showing that arrested Hispanic juveniles were 33% less likely to be female than arrested White juveniles. Crime Location and Crime Type remained significantly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity. Together, Gender, Crime Location, and Crime Type could explain about 3% of the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity (Cox & Snell $R^2 = .03$). The dramatic drop in variance explained (from 16% to 3%) suggests that Gang Affiliation was the primary factor associated with juvenile race/ethnicity in 2009.

2010

The following descriptive results were obtained from data analysis of 1,146 juvenile arrest records from 2010:

Regarding **multiple arrests**, nearly 62% of juveniles arrested were only arrested one time during 2010, whereas more than 38% were arrested more than one time during 2010 (see Figure 12).

Figure 12. Multiple Arrests

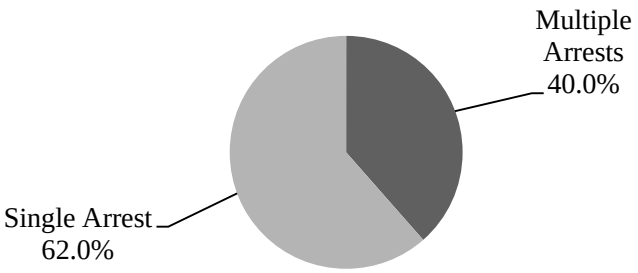
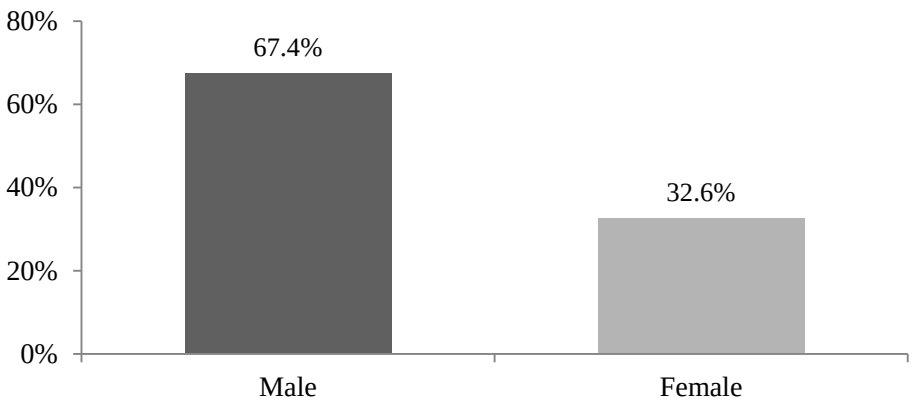


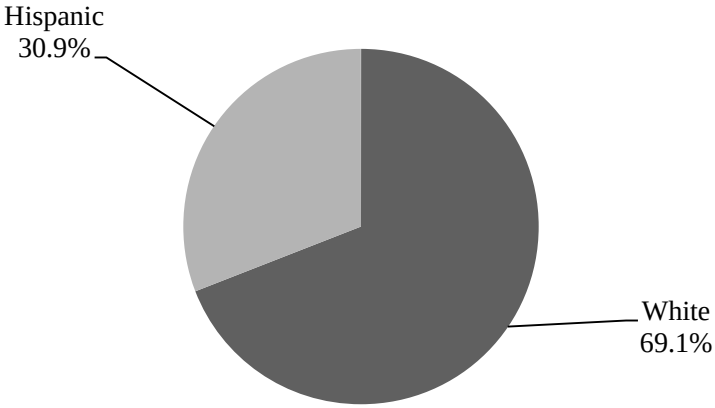
Figure 13. Gender

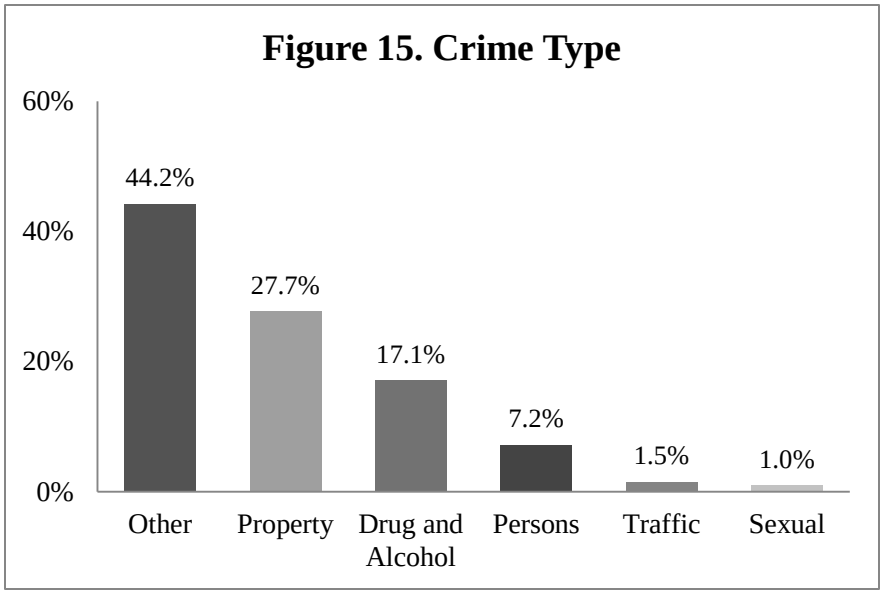


Regarding **gender**, over two-thirds of juveniles arrested were male, whereas nearly one-third were female (see Figure 13).

Regarding **race/ethnicity**, just over 69% of juveniles arrested were White, whereas nearly 31% were Hispanic (see Figure 14).

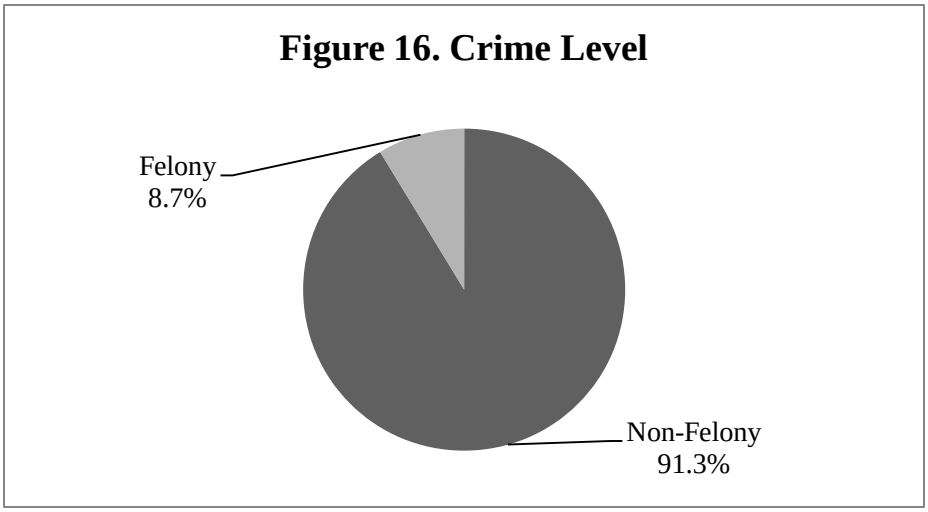
Figure 14. Race

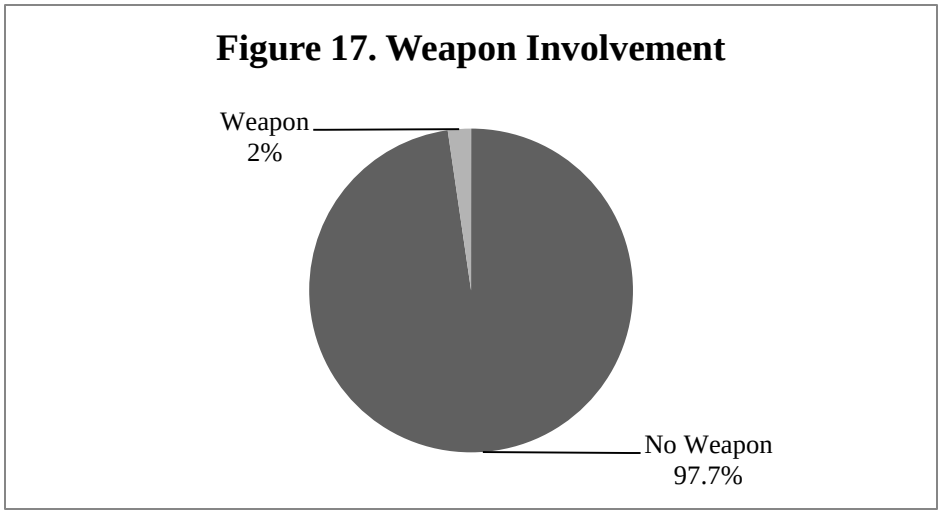




Regarding **crime type**, nearly 45% of juvenile arrests that included crime type were classified as 'other', whereas just over 28% were property crimes, more than 17% were drug and alcohol crimes, over 7% were crimes against persons, nearly 2% were traffic crimes, and 1% were sexual offense crimes (see Figure 15). Under 2% of all cases had no record reported regarding crime type.

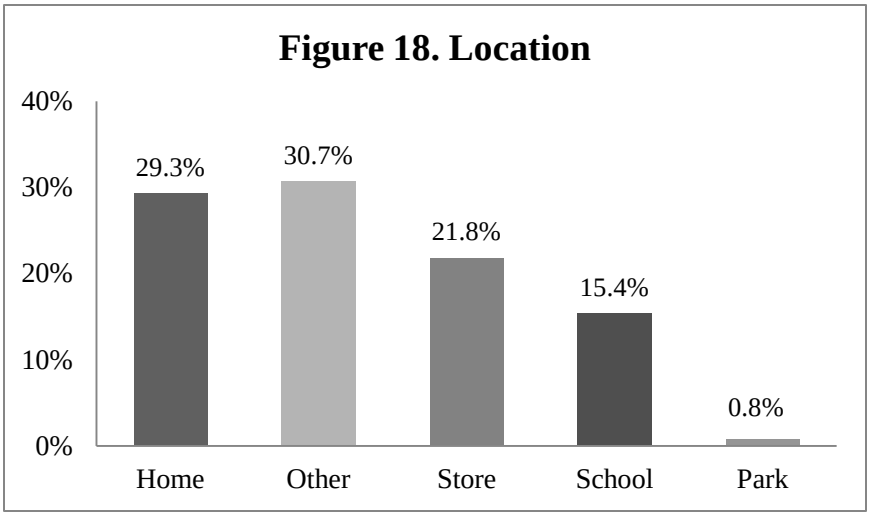
Regarding **crime level**, over 91% of juvenile arrests that included crime levels were classified as non-felony crimes, whereas nearly 9% were felony crimes. Less than 12% of all cases had no record reported regarding crime level (see Figure 16).

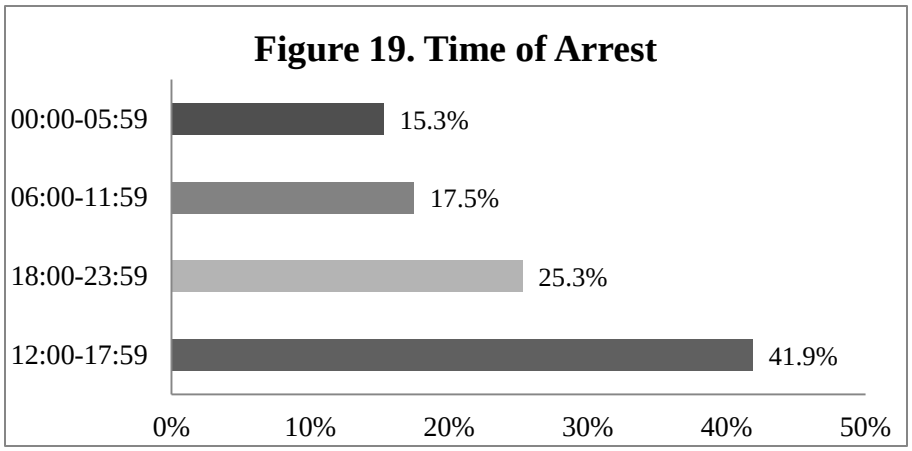




Regarding the **involvement of a weapon**, nearly 98% of juvenile arrests did not involve a weapon, whereas just over 2% did involve a weapon (see Figure 17). Less than 1% of all cases had no record reported regarding weapon involvement.

Regarding **location**, over 31% of arrests that included location occurred at a location specified as 'other', whereas nearly 30% occurred at the juvenile's home, over 22% occurred in a store, nearly 16% occurred at a school, and less than 1% occurred at a park (see Figure 18). Less than 2% of all cases had no record reported regarding location of arrest.





Regarding **time of arrest**, nearly 42% of juvenile arrests were made from 12:00 p.m.-5:59 p.m., whereas over 25% were made from 6:00 p.m.-11:59 p.m., nearly 18% were made from 6:00 a.m.-11:59 a.m., and over 15% were made from 12:00 a.m.-5:59 a.m. (see Figure 19).

Regarding the **age of juveniles arrested**, nearly 28% were 17, over 24% were 16, over 18% were 15, slightly more than 13% were 14, nearly 8% were 13, nearly 5% were 12, more than 2% were 11, slightly more than 1% were 10, and less than 1% were 9, 8, and 7, respectively (see Figure 20).

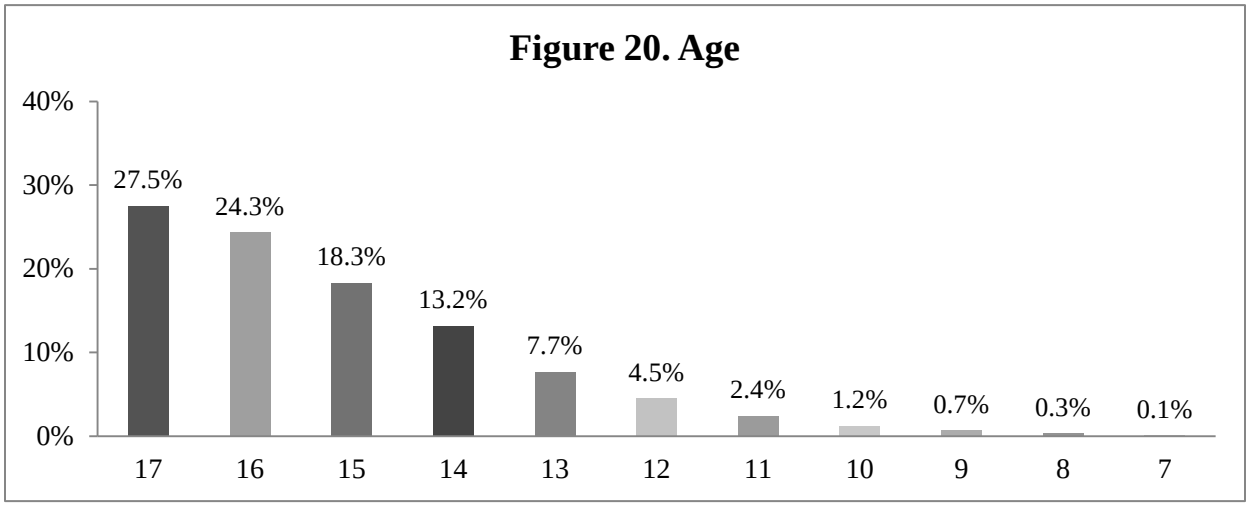
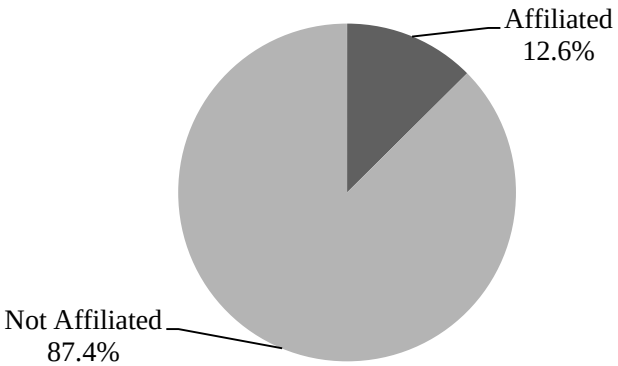


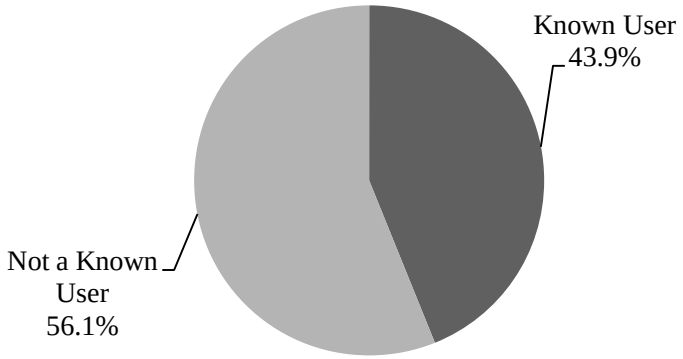
Figure 21. Gang Affiliation



Regarding **gang affiliation**, over 87% of juveniles arrested for whom gang affiliation information was noted were not affiliated with a gang, whereas nearly 13% were affiliated with a gang (see Figure 21). Nearly 40% had no record reported regarding gang affiliation.

Regarding **known drug and alcohol use**, slightly over 56% of juveniles arrested for whom known drug/alcohol use information was noted did not have a record of known drug or alcohol use, whereas nearly 44% did have a record of known drug and alcohol use (see Figure 22). Nearly 40% had no record reported regarding known drug/alcohol use.

Figure 22. Drug and Alcohol Use



In 2010, the statewide **Relative Rate Index** calculated by IDJC was 1.60, meaning that Hispanic juveniles were 1.60 times more likely to be arrested than White juveniles. To assess for participant characteristics of arrested juveniles that could possibly at least partially explain the elevated RRI, a battery of chi-square analyses were conducted crossing race/ethnicity with nominally-scored participant characteristic variables. All analyses were conducted with an alpha level of .05 (the results of these analyses are presented below in Table 7). As seen in Table 7, two participant characteristics of arrested juveniles were significantly associated with race/ethnicity, including gender and gang affiliation. Each of these findings is explored in greater depth below.

Table 7: Significance of Differences in Participant Characteristics Of Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity	
Participant Characteristic	**Significance of Result: Probability (*p*) Value**
Multiple Arrests	.86
Gender	**< .01**
Gang Affiliation	**< .001**
Drug/Alcohol User	.09
Crime Type	.13
Crime Level	.45
Weapon Involvement	.40
Location of Arrest	.36
Time of Arrest	.63
Age	.51

Note. Significant *p* values are in bold font.

As seen below in Table 8, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be male than arrested White juveniles. Because males were more often arrested than females in 2010, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during this year.

Table 8: Gender Differences in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Gender of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Male	64.7	73.2	67.4
Female	35.3	26.8	32.6

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and gender information was available.

As seen below in Table 9, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be affiliated with a gang than arrested White juveniles. Because those affiliated with gangs may be more likely to be arrested than those not affiliated with gangs, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2009.

Table 9: Differences in Gang Affiliation in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Gang Affiliation of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Affiliated with a Gang	6.4	25.1	12.6
Not Affiliated with a Gang	93.6	74.9	87.4

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and gang affiliation information was available.

A logistic regression analysis was performed to assess which, if either, of the factors significantly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity remained significantly associated after controlling for variance shared between them. The analysis revealed that Gender no longer

remained significantly associated, however Gang Affiliation did (Wald = 38.84, $p < .001$). This association consisted of arrested Hispanic juveniles being 4.66 times more likely to be affiliated with a gang than arrested White juveniles. Gang Affiliation by itself could explain approximately 6% of the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity (Cox & Snell $R^2 = .06$).

Because two of the measured variables, including the variable most strongly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity (Gang Affiliation), were measured in only one of the two counties, the logistic regression analysis was conducted again, this time with all of the variables except Gang Affiliation and Drug/Alcohol Use. When the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity accounted for by these variables was not controlled for, Gender emerged as a significant predictor of juvenile race/ethnicity (Wald = 7.86, $p < .01$), showing that arrested Hispanic juveniles were 33% less likely to be female than arrested White juveniles. Gender by itself could explain approximately 1% of the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity (Cox & Snell $R^2 = .06$). The dramatic drop in variance explained (from 6% to 1%) suggests that Gang Affiliation was the primary factor associated with juvenile race/ethnicity in 2010.

2011

The following descriptive results were obtained from data analysis of 1,204 juvenile arrest records from 2011:

Regarding **multiple arrests**, nearly 57% of juveniles arrested were only arrested one time during 2011, whereas over 43% were arrested more than one time during 2011 (see Figure 23).

Figure 23. Multiple Arrests

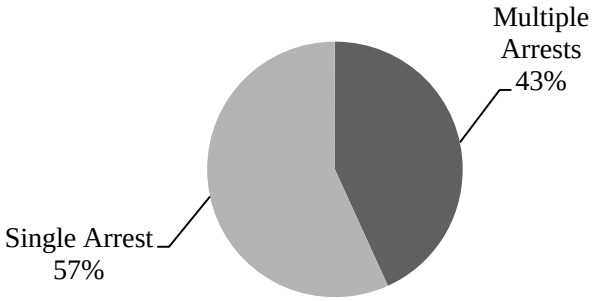
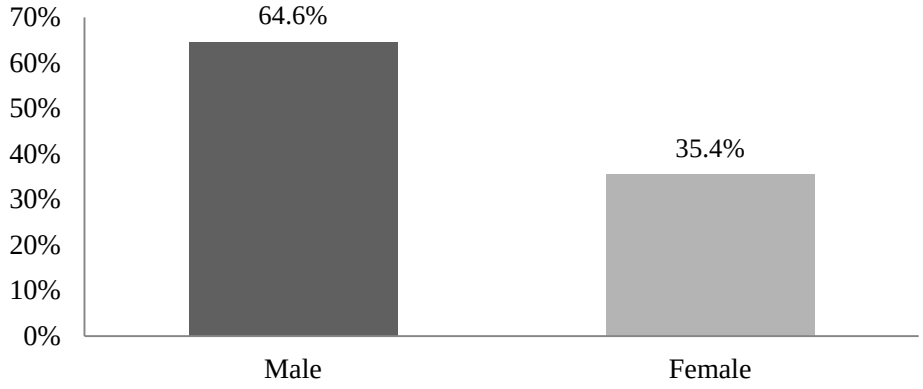


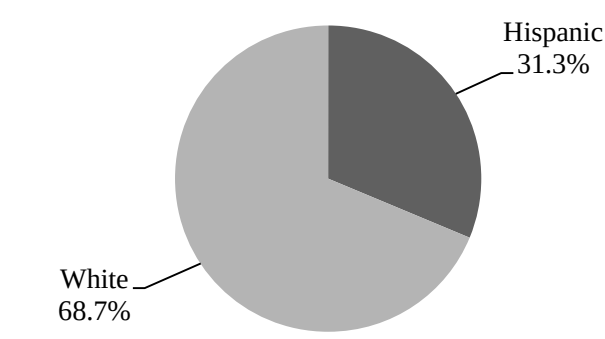
Figure 24. Gender

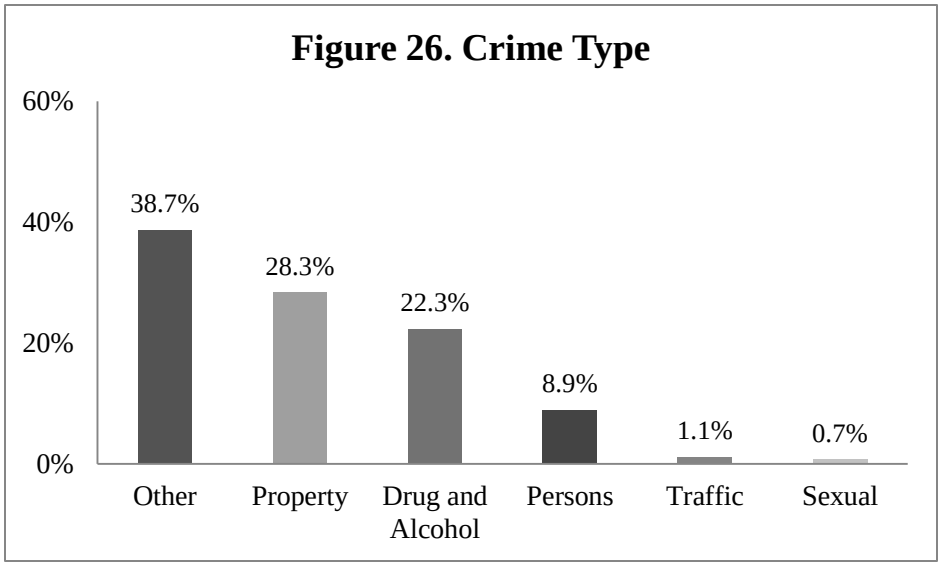


Regarding **gender**, nearly 65% of juveniles arrested were male, whereas over 35% were female (see Figure 24).

Regarding **race/ethnicity**, nearly 69% of juveniles arrested were White, whereas over 31% were Hispanic (see Figure 25).

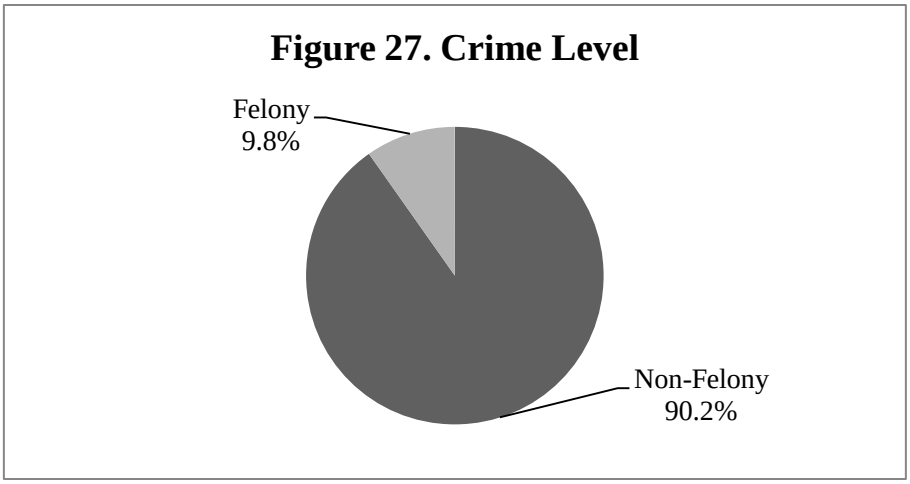
Figure 25. Race

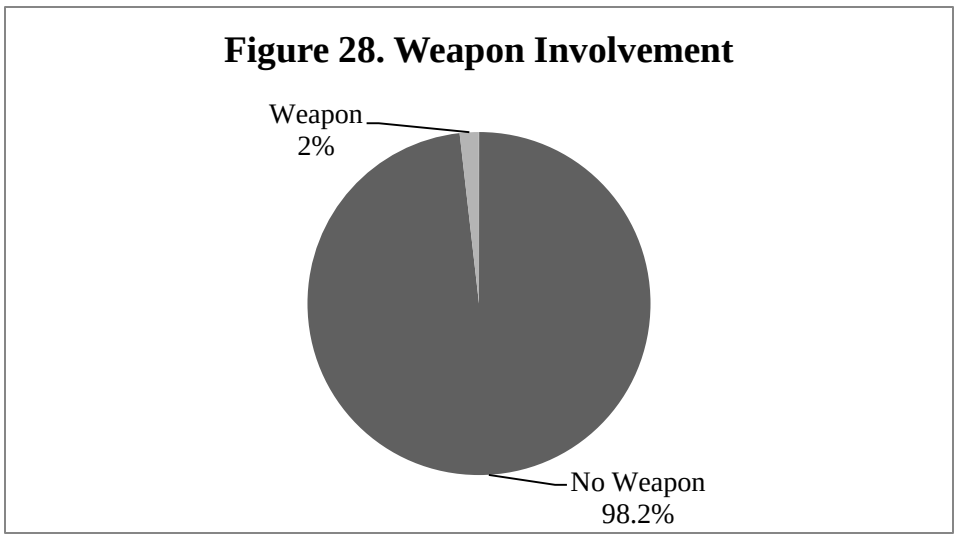




Regarding **crime type**, nearly 39% of juvenile arrests were classified as 'other', whereas over 28% were property crimes, over 22% were drug and alcohol crimes, nearly 9% were crimes against persons, just over 1% were traffic crimes, and less than 1% were sexual offense crimes (see Figure 26).

Regarding **crime level**, over 90% of juvenile arrests that included crime levels were classified as non-felony crimes, whereas nearly 10% were felony crimes. Ten percent of all cases had no record reported regarding crime level (see Figure 27).





Regarding the **involvement of a weapon**, 98% of all juvenile arrests that included weapon involvement did not involve a weapon, whereas under 2% did involve a weapon (see Figure 28). Less than 1% of all cases had no record reported regarding weapon involvement.

Regarding **location**, over 29% of arrests that included location occurred at the juvenile's home, whereas nearly 28% occurred at a location at a location specified as 'other', over 22% occurred in a store, nearly 20% occurred at a school, and just over 1% occurred at a park (see Figure 29). Less than 1% of all cases had no record reported regarding location of arrest.

Figure 29. Location

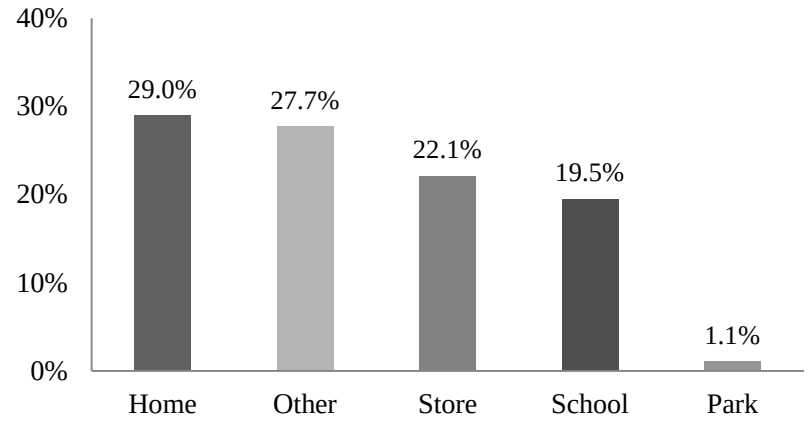
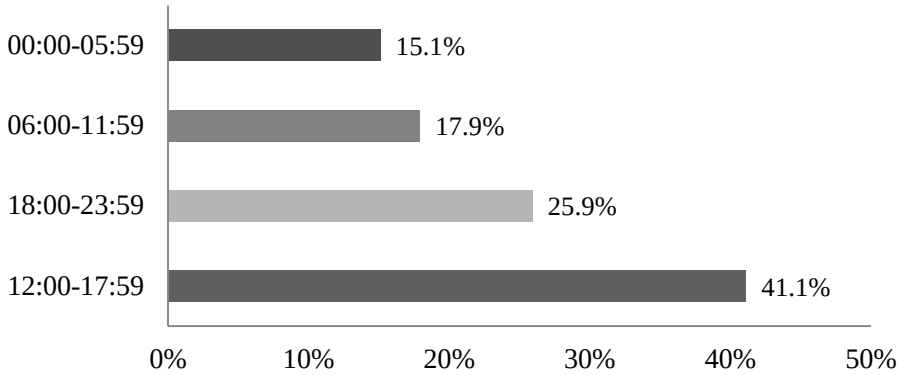


Figure 30. Time of Arrest



Regarding **time of arrest**, over 41% of juvenile arrests were made from 12:00 p.m.-5:59 p.m., whereas nearly 26% were made from 6:00 p.m.-11:59 p.m., nearly 18% were made from 6:00 a.m.-11:59 a.m., and just over 15% were made from 12:00 a.m.-5:59 a.m. (see Figure 30).

Regarding the **age of juveniles arrested**, 23% were 16, nearly 22% were 15, over 20% were 17, nearly 15% were 14, 10% were 13, 6% were 12, more than 2% were 11, and less than 1% were 10, 9, 8, and 7, respectively (see Figure 31).

Figure 31. Age

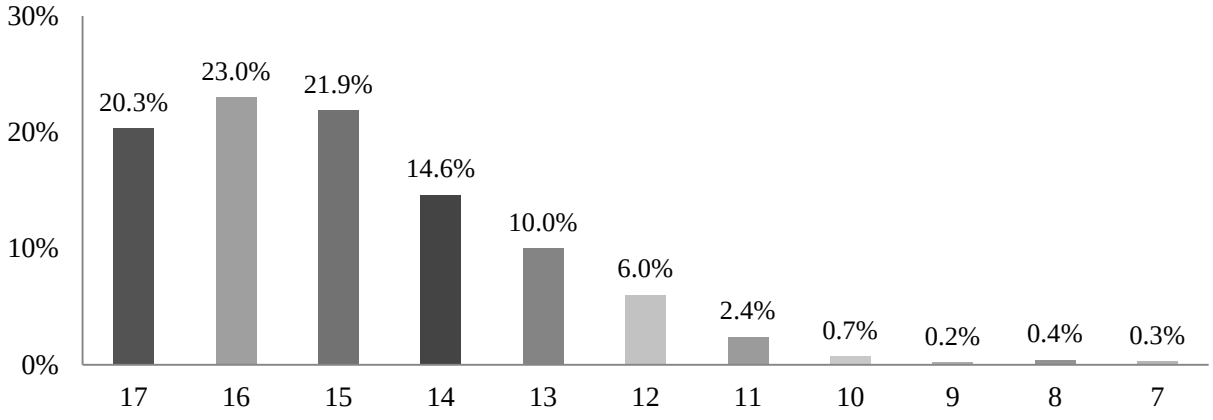
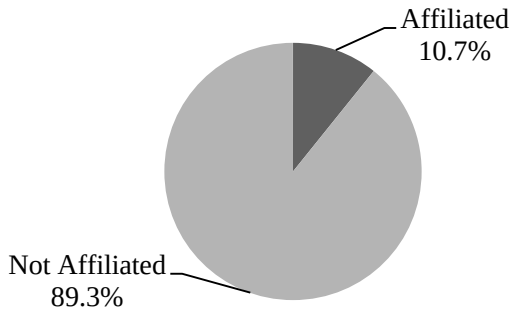


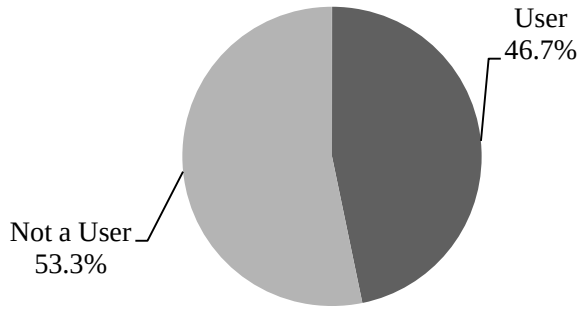
Figure 32. Gang Affiliation



Regarding **gang affiliation**, over 89% of juveniles arrested for whom gang affiliation information was noted were not associated with a gang, whereas nearly 11% were affiliated with a gang (see Figure 32). Nearly 39% had no record regarding gang affiliation.

Regarding **known drug and alcohol use**, over 53% of juveniles arrested for whom known drug/alcohol use information was noted did not have a record of known drug or alcohol use, whereas nearly 47% did have a record of known drug and alcohol use (see Figure 33). Nearly 39% had no record reported regarding known drug/alcohol use.

Figure 33. Drug and Alcohol Use



In 2011, the statewide Relative Rate Index calculated by IDJC was 1.08, meaning that Hispanic juveniles were 1.08 times more likely to be arrested than White juveniles. To assess for participant characteristics of arrested juveniles that could possibly at least partially explain the elevated RRI, a battery of chi-square analyses were conducted crossing race/ethnicity with nominally-scored participant characteristic variables. All analyses were conducted with an alpha level of .05 (the results of these analyses are presented below in Table 10). As seen in Table 10, three participant characteristics of arrested juveniles were significantly associated with race/ethnicity, including: 1) gang affiliation; 2) known drug/alcohol user; and 3) crime type. Each of these findings is explored in greater depth below.

Table 10: Significance of Differences in Participant Characteristics Of Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity	
Participant Characteristic	**Significance of Result: Probability (*p*) Value**
Multiple Arrests	.98
Gender	.18
Gang Affiliation	**< .001**
Drug/Alcohol User	**< .01**
Crime Type	**< .01**
Crime Level	.17
Weapon Involvement	.33
Location of Arrest	.09
Time of Arrest	.37
Age	.64

Note. Significant *p* values are in bold font.

As seen below in Table 11, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be affiliated with a gang than arrested White juveniles. Because those affiliated with gangs may be more likely to be arrested than those not affiliated with gangs, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2011.

Table 11: Differences in Gang Affiliation in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Gang Affiliation of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Affiliated with a Gang	5.2	21.5	10.7
Not Affiliated with a Gang	94.8	78.5	89.3

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and gang affiliation information was available.

As seen below in Table 12, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be a known drug/alcohol user than arrested White juveniles. Because those with known drug/alcohol users may be more likely to be arrested than those without known drug/alcohol problems, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2011.

Table 12: Differences in Known Drug/Alcohol Use in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Known Drug/Alcohol Use by Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Yes	42.7	54.6	46.7
No	57.3	45.4	53.3

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and known drug/alcohol use information was available.

As seen below in Table 13, the type of crimes committed by arrested Hispanic and White juveniles differed. Among the more prevalent crime types, Hispanic juveniles tended to be more often arrested for property crimes, whereas White juveniles tended to be more often arrested for 'other' offenses. Among the less prevalent crime types, White juveniles were more often arrested for sex crimes whereas Hispanic juveniles were more often arrested for traffic offenses.

Table 13: Differences in Crime Type in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity

Crime Type of Arrested Juvenile	White	Hispanic	Total
Sex Crimes	1.0	0.3	0.7
Crimes Against Persons	9.3	8.0	8.9
Crimes Against Property	27.6	30.0	28.3
Drug/Alcohol Crimes	21.6	23.6	22.3
Traffic Offenses	0.4	2.7	1.1
'Other' Offenses	40.1	35.5	38.7

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and crime type information was available.

A logistic regression analysis was performed to assess which, if any, of the factors significantly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity remained significantly associated after controlling for variance shared among them. The analysis revealed that Known Drug/Alcohol Use and Crime Type no longer remained significantly associated, however Gang Affiliation did (Wald = 31.15, $p < .001$). This association consisted of arrested Hispanic juveniles being 4.50 times more likely to be affiliated with a gang than arrested White juveniles. Gang Affiliation by itself could explain approximately 6% of the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity (Cox & Snell $R^2 = .06$).

Because two of the measured variables, including the variable most strongly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity (Gang Affiliation), were measured in only one of the two counties, the logistic regression analysis was conducted again, this time with all of the variables except Gang Affiliation and Drug/Alcohol Use. When the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity accounted for by these variables was not controlled for, Crime Type emerged as a significant predictor of juvenile race/ethnicity (Wald = 13.54, $p < .05$), showing that Hispanic juveniles were 8.3 times more likely to be arrested for traffic crimes than for 'other crimes' (the referent category) than White juveniles. Crime Type by itself could explain approximately 1% of the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity (Cox & Snell $R^2 = .01$). The dramatic drop in variance explained (from 6% to 1%) suggests that Gang Affiliation was the primary factor associated with juvenile race/ethnicity in 2011.

2009-2011

The following descriptive results were obtained from data analysis of 3,527 juvenile arrest records from 2009-2011:

Regarding **multiple arrests**, nearly 60% of juveniles arrested were only arrested one time in any particular calendar year between 2009 and 2011, whereas just over 40% were arrested more than one time in any particular calendar year (see Figure 34).

Figure 34. Multiple Arrests

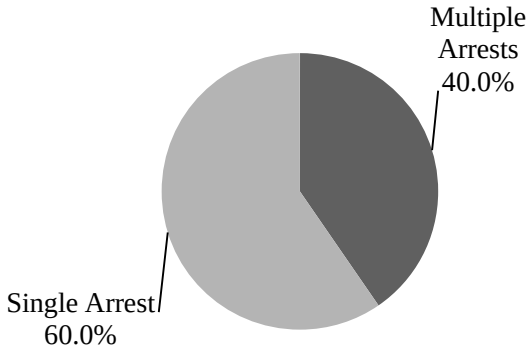
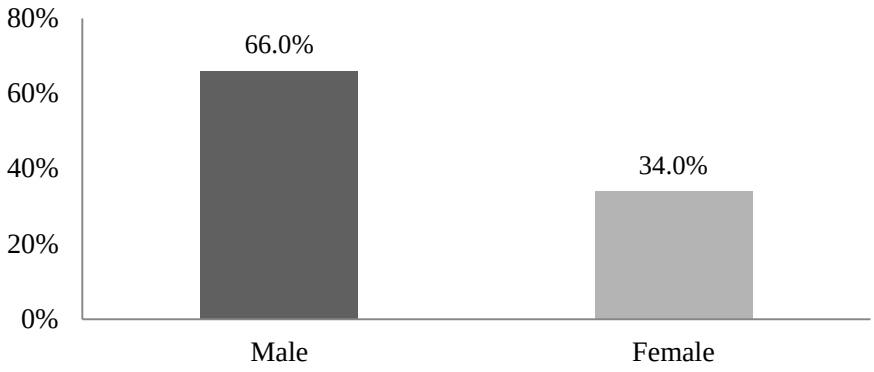


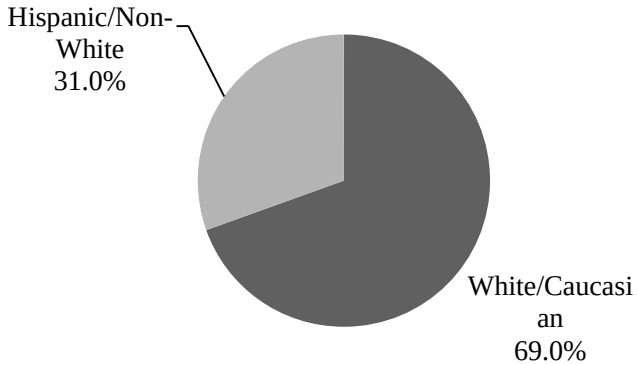
Figure 35. Gender

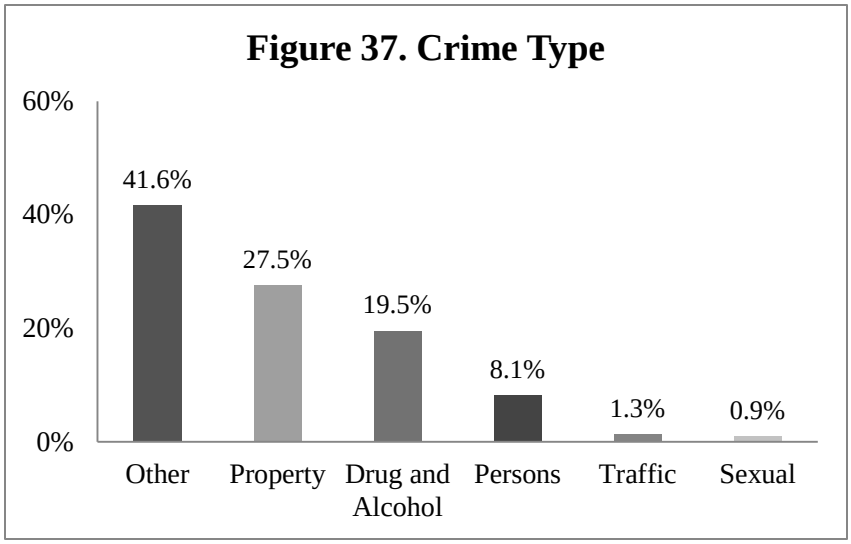


Regarding **gender**, nearly two-thirds of juveniles arrested were male, whereas over one-third were female (see Figure 35).

Regarding **race/ethnicity**, nearly 70% of juveniles arrested were White, whereas more than 30% were Hispanic (see Figure 36).

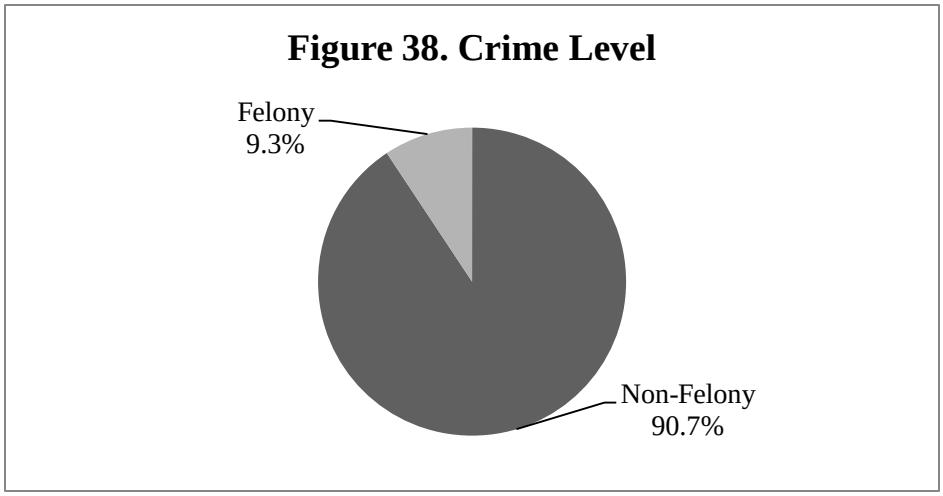
Figure 36. Race

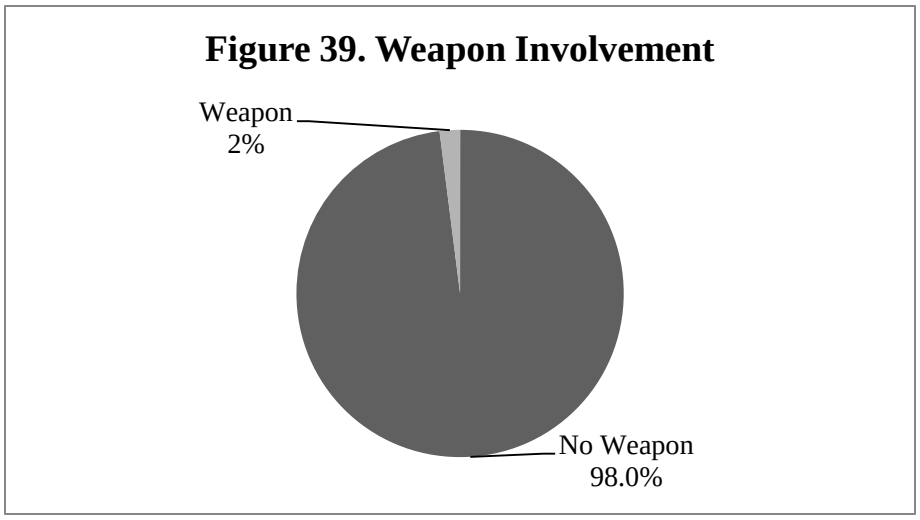




Regarding **crime type**, over 42% of juvenile arrests that included crime type were classified as 'other', whereas nearly 28% were property crimes, nearly 20% were drug and alcohol crimes, over 8% were crimes against persons, more than 1% were traffic offense crimes, slightly less than 1% were sexual offense crimes (see Figure 37). Slightly over 1% of all cases had no record reporting crime type.

Regarding **crime level**, nearly 91% of juvenile arrests that included crime levels were classified as non-felony crimes, whereas slightly over 9% were felony crimes. Just over 11% of all cases had no record reported regarding crime level (see Figure 38).





Regarding the **involvement of a weapon**, 98% of all juvenile arrests that included weapon involvement did not involve a weapon, whereas 2% did involve a weapon (see Figure 39). Less than 1% of all cases had no record reported regarding weapon involvement.

Regarding **location**, nearly 30% each of arrests that included location occurred at the juvenile's home and at a location specified as 'other', whereas over 22% occurred in a store, just over 17% occurred at a school, and 1% occurred at a park (see Figure 40). Less than 2% of all cases had no record reported regarding location of arrest.

Figure 40. Location

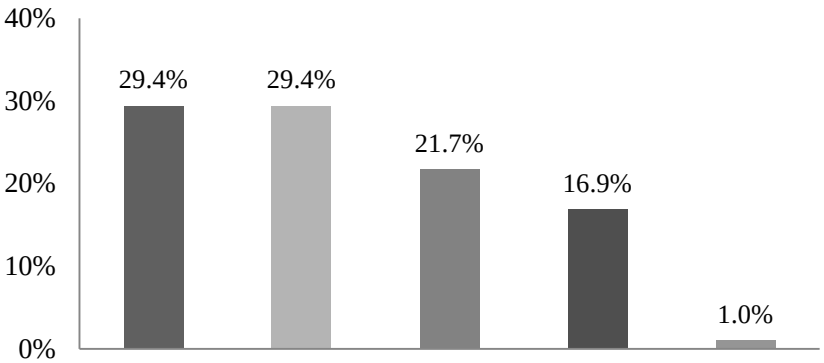
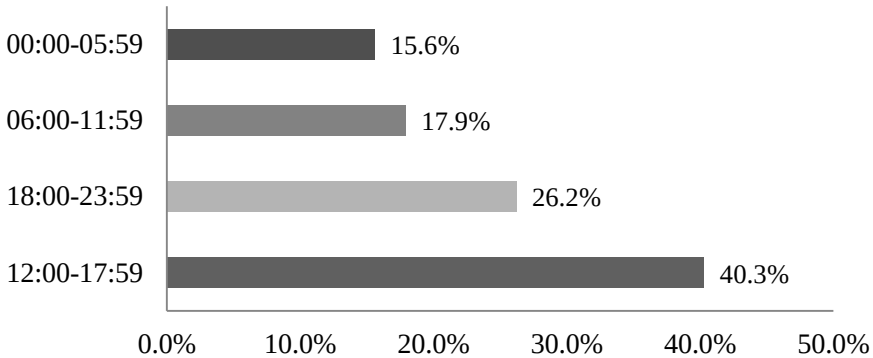


Figure 41. Time of Arrest



Regarding **time of arrest**, over 40% of juvenile arrests were made from 12:00 p.m.-5:59 p.m., whereas over 26% were made from 6:00 p.m.-11:59 p.m., nearly 18% were made from 6:00 a.m.-11:59 a.m., and nearly 16% were made from 12:00 a.m.-5:59 a.m. (see Figure 41).

Regarding the **age of juveniles arrested**, nearly 25% were 17, over 24% were 16, over 20% were 15, over 13% were 14, nearly 9% were 13, nearly 5% were 12, over 2% were 11, 1% were 10, and less than 1% were 9, 8, and 7, respectively (see Figure 42).

Figure 42. Age

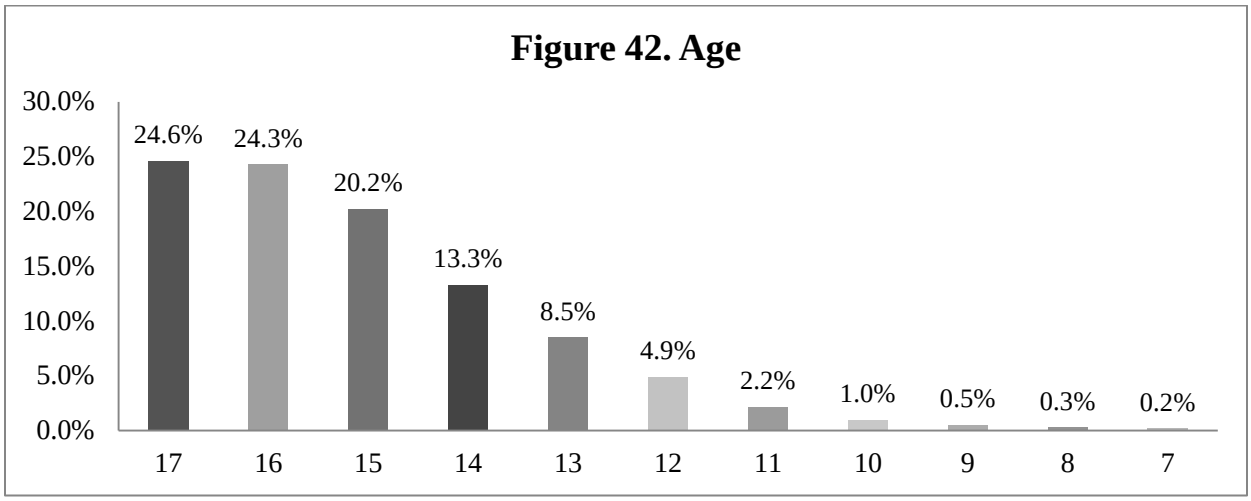
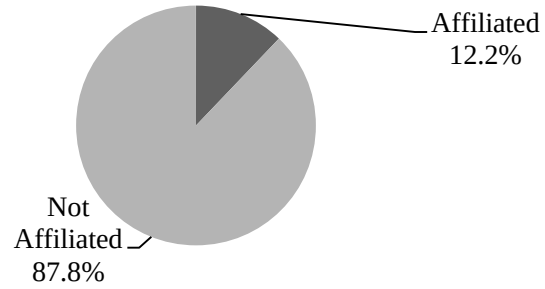


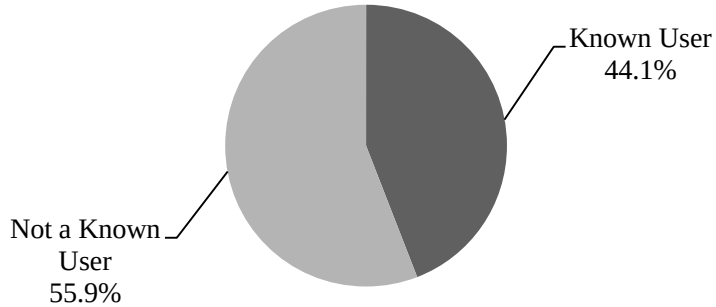
Figure 43. Gang Affiliation



Regarding **gang affiliation**, nearly 88% of juveniles arrested for whom gang affiliation information was noted were not associated with a gang, whereas nearly just over 12% were affiliated with a gang (see Figure 43). Thirty-nine percent had no record regarding gang affiliation.

Regarding **known drug and alcohol use**, nearly 56% of juveniles arrested for whom known drug/alcohol use information was noted did not have a record of known drug or alcohol use, whereas over 44% did have a record of known drug and alcohol use (see Figure 44). Thirty-nine percent had no record reported regarding known drug/alcohol use.

Figure 44. Drug and Alcohol Use



Between 2009 and 2011, the average statewide RRI calculated by IDJC was 1.50, meaning that Hispanic juveniles were 1.50 times more likely to be arrested than White juveniles. To assess for participant characteristics of arrested juveniles that could possibly at least partially explain the elevated RRI, a battery of chi-square analyses were conducted crossing race/ethnicity with nominally-scored participant characteristic variables. All analyses were conducted with an alpha level of .05 (the results of these analyses are presented below in Table 14). As seen in Table 14, five participant characteristics of arrested juveniles were significantly associated with race/ethnicity, including: 1) gender; 2) gang affiliation; 3) known drug/alcohol user; 4) crime type; and 5) location of arrest. Each of these findings is explored in greater depth below.

Table 14: Significance of Differences in Participant Characteristics Of Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity	
Participant Characteristic	**Significance of Result: Probability (*p*) Value**
Multiple Arrests	.81
Gender	**< .001**
Gang Affiliation	**< .001**
Drug/Alcohol User	**< .001**
Crime Type	**< .001**
Crime Level	.07
Weapon Involvement	.19
Location of Arrest	**< .01**
Time of Arrest	.25
Age	.30

Note. Significant *p* values are in bold font.

As seen below in Table 15, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be male than arrested White juveniles. Because males were more often arrested than females in years 2009-2011, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during these years.

Table 15: Gender Differences in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Gender of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Male	63.9	70.6	66.0
Female	36.1	29.4	34.0

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and gender information was available.

As seen below in Table 16, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be affiliated with a gang than arrested White juveniles. Because those affiliated with gangs may be more likely to be arrested than those not affiliated with gangs, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2009-2011.

Table 16: Differences in Gang Affiliation in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Gang Affiliation of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Affiliated with a Gang	5.6	26.0	12.2
Not Affiliated with a Gang	94.4	74.0	87.8

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and gang affiliation information was available.

As seen below in Table 17, arrested Hispanic juveniles were significantly more likely to be a known drug/alcohol user than arrested White juveniles. Because those with known drug/alcohol

users may be more likely to be arrested than those without known drug/alcohol problems, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2009-2011.

Table 17: Differences in Known Drug/Alcohol Use in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Known Drug/Alcohol Use by Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Yes	41.2	50.3	44.1
No	58.8	49.7	55.9

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and known drug/alcohol use information was available.

As seen below in Table 18, the type of crimes committed by arrested Hispanic and White juveniles differed. Among the more prevalent crime types, Hispanic juveniles tended to be more often arrested for 'other' offenses and property crimes, whereas White juveniles tended to be more often arrested for drug/alcohol crimes and crimes against persons. Because they were proportionally overrepresented in the two largest arrest categories ('other' offenses and property crimes), this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2009-2011. Among the less prevalent crime types, White juveniles were more often arrested for sexual offense crimes whereas Hispanic juveniles were more often arrested for traffic offense crimes. The magnitude of the differences among these less prevalent crime types (i.e., White juveniles being arrested for sexual offense crimes four times more often than Hispanic juveniles, and Hispanic juveniles being arrested for traffic offense crimes three times more often than White juveniles) may be the primary driver of the difference in crime types as a function of juvenile race/ethnicity.

Table 18: Differences in Crime Type in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Crime Type of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
Sexual Offense Crimes	1.2	0.3	0.9
Crimes Against Persons	8.9	6.7	8.2
Crimes Against Property	27.5	28.6	27.8
Drug/Alcohol Crimes	20.0	19.0	19.7
Traffic Offense Crimes	0.8	2.4	1.3
'Other' Offenses	41.7	43.0	42.1

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and crime type information was available.

As seen below in Table 19, the location of crimes committed by arrested Hispanic and White juveniles differed. Among the more prevalent crime locations, Hispanic juveniles tended to be more often arrested in schools and 'other' locations, whereas White juveniles tended to be more often arrested in their homes. Because more arrests took place in schools and 'other' locations than in homes, this finding may partially explain the higher RRI of Hispanic juveniles during 2009-2011.

Table 19: Differences in Crime Location in Arrested Juveniles as a Function of Race/Ethnicity			
Crime Location of Arrested Juvenile	**White**	**Hispanic**	**Total**
School	16.5	18.7	17.2
Park	1.1	0.9	1.0
Home	31.8	25.4	29.9
Store	21.8	22.7	22.1
'Other'	28.8	32.3	29.9

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the arrested juveniles for whom race/ethnicity and crime location information was available.

A logistic regression analysis was performed to assess which, if any, of the factors significantly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity remained significantly associated after controlling for variance shared among them. The analysis revealed that three of the five variables remained significantly associated, whereas two (Gender and Known Drug/Alcohol User) were no longer significantly associated after accounting for shared variance. The three remaining significantly associated variables, in order of strength of association, included the following:

- Gang Affiliation (Wald = 132.48, $p < .001$). This association consisted of arrested Hispanic juveniles being 6.1 times more likely to be affiliated with a gang than arrested White juveniles.
- Crime Type (Wald = 11.12, $p < .05$). This association consisted of Hispanic juveniles being over 28% less likely to be arrested for drug/alcohol crimes than for 'other' crimes (the referent category), compared to White juveniles.
- Crime Location (Wald = 10.33, $p < .05$). This association consisted of Hispanic juveniles being 1.3 times more likely to be arrested at school than in 'other' locations (the referent category), compared to White juveniles.

Together, Gang Affiliation, Crime Type and Crime Location could explain approximately 9% of the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity (Cox & Snell $R^2 = .09$).

Because two of the measured variables, including the variable most strongly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity (Gang Affiliation), were measured in only one of the two counties, the logistic regression analysis was conducted again, this time with all of the variables except Gang Affiliation and Drug/Alcohol Use. When the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity accounted for by these variables was not controlled for, Gender emerged as a significant predictor of juvenile race/ethnicity (Wald = 12.36, $p < .001$), showing that arrested Hispanic juveniles were 25% less likely to be female than arrested White juveniles. Crime Location and Crime Type remained significantly associated with juvenile race/ethnicity. Together, Gender, Crime Type, and Crime Location could explain about 2% of the variance in juvenile race/ethnicity (Cox & Snell $R^2 = .02$). The dramatic drop in variance explained (from 9% to 2%) suggests that Gang Affiliation was the primary factor associated with juvenile race/ethnicity in 2009-2011.

Qualitative Data

The qualitative data were collected in focus group and telephone interviews with a sample of law enforcement officers from Twin Falls and Canyon counties. The data collection protocol consisted of four questions; however, although both groups were presented with the same number of questions, one question had to be modified to reflect the unique circumstances in each of the two counties. These questions are provided below in Table 20.

Table 20: Focus Group Questions

Question Number	Question	Target County
1.	What is the level and nature of your interactions with juveniles in your work?	both
2.	When you are involved in a situation in which you must make a decision about whether or not to arrest a juvenile, what are the most important factors you consider in making that decision? Why and how do you consider these factors?	both
3.	In 2009, state data showed that Hispanic youth in Twin Falls County were 3.59 times more likely to be arrested per capita than non-Hispanic White youth. In 2011, that rate had fallen to 1.62. Why do you think the rate was higher for Hispanic youth in both years? Why do you think the rate fell so much in just two years?	Twin Falls
	In 2009, state data showed that Hispanic youth in Canyon County were 1.59 times more likely to be arrested per capita than non-Hispanic White youth. In 2011, that rate had fallen to 101- meaning there was essentially no difference in arrest rates between Hispanic and non-Hispanic White youth. Why do you think the rate was higher for Hispanic youth in 2009? Why do you think the disparity in arrest rates vanished in just two years?	Canyon County
4.	Do you think there is a need to address racial or ethnic disparities in juvenile justice at a larger scale in your county? If yes, what would be your suggestions for addressing such disparities?	both

The responses provided by the law enforcement officers were coded using a content analysis procedure and organized into conceptually similar themes. In the following paragraphs, the responses to each of the four questions presented to the law enforcement personnel in Twin Falls and Canyon counties will be presented.

The first question focused on the level and nature of interaction with juveniles as reported by the law enforcement personnel. A total of 16 law enforcement officers (or 84% of those who participated in this wave of data collection) provided a response to this question. Because this question consists of two distinct parts, level (frequency and location) and nature of interaction, the presentation of the responses is also provided separately. The responses regarding the level of interaction (including frequency and location) are presented first, followed by the responses pertaining to the nature of interaction. As seen below in Table 21, three-quarters of the law enforcement officers who provided information about the frequency with which they interact

with juveniles in their work indicated that this type of interaction occurs often or daily, with only one-third indicating that this type of interaction occurs seldom in their work. Additionally, several respondents expressed that the frequency with which they interact with juveniles varies depending on the time of the year, with the frequency of interaction increasing during school breaks and vacations; one respondent also stated that, in his daily interaction with juveniles, he aims to "build partnerships with juveniles while using available resources to help them stay out of trouble."

Table 21: Law Enforcement Officers' Level of Interaction with Juveniles: Frequency

Most Common Responses	**Number (%)**
Interaction occurs often or daily	12 (75.0)
Interaction occurs seldom	4 (25.0)

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the 16 law enforcement officers who responded to this question.

The respondents also provided information about the location or locations in which they interact with juveniles. As seen below in Table 22, a clear majority of respondents stated that the interaction takes place on the street if the type of violation is a traffic violation or some other popular 'hangout' for youth (e.g., parks, malls, skate parks, and parties). The second most frequent location named by the respondents was school. One respondent stated that in addition to teaching classes to middle and high school students about an array of topics (e.g., driving, drugs, crime, gangs, etc.), his main duties as an SRO included "acting as a deterrent to crime, evaluating safety needs and establishing protocols, and building those relationships with the students that show them I'm here to protect them and can be used as a ready resource."

Table 22: Law Enforcement Officers' Level of Interaction with Juveniles: Location

Most Common Responses	**Number (%)**
Street and/or other public places	11 (68.8)
School	8 (50.0)

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the 16 law enforcement officers who responded to this question. Because multiple response themes were coded for each individual, the total percentages in this table may exceed 100.

As seen below in Table 23, when asked about the nature of their interaction with juveniles, over one-third of law enforcement officers stated that their interaction with juveniles is initiated in response to a parent's request, with several respondents adding that these calls usually result in the removal of the juvenile from the home. The second most frequent response was involvement of law enforcement officers in counseling, advising, arrests, and investigations, including interviewing and interrogation of juveniles.

Table 23: Law Enforcement Officers' Nature of Interaction with Juveniles	
Most Common Responses	**Number (%)**
In response to a parent's request	11 (68.8)
Arrests, investigations, advising, and counseling	8 (50.0)

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the 16 law enforcement officers who responded to this question. Because multiple response themes were coded for each individual, the total percentages in this table may exceed 100.

In addition, several respondents emphasized that their goal is to build relationships with juveniles that are based on trust and respect; however, some patrol officers expressed having difficulties building rapport with juveniles making it more challenging for them to interact with juveniles because, according to the patrol officers, the level of respect that juveniles have for the patrol officers is much lower than the level of respect they have for the SROs.

The second question focused on the most important factors the law enforcement officers consider when making a decision about whether or not to arrest a juvenile. More specifically, the law enforcement officers were asked to identify the most important factors they consider when deciding whether or not to arrest a juvenile and provide an explanation for why and how they consider these factors. All 19 law enforcement officers who participated in this wave of data collection provided a response to this question. As seen below in Table 24, the major factor law enforcement officers consider when making a decision about whether or not to arrest a juvenile is the juvenile's criminal history, including past arrests and contact history (with more than half of all respondents indicating that the juvenile's criminal history was a very prominent decision-making factor). Other factors that were cited with some frequency included current availability of parents or diversion resources such as the Twin Falls Safe House or the Status Offenders Program (over 68% of respondents indicated that the availability of resources largely influences whether they decide to arrest or release a juvenile upon contact) and the type of crime committed (with just over 42% stating that a lesser crime is more likely to result in a release or turnover to parents than a more serious crime, particularly a crime that involves a victim). Several respondents (nearly 37%) also indicated that they take parenting culture into consideration when deciding whether or not to arrest a juvenile, elaborating that they tend to be more likely to arrest a juvenile whose parent/guardian seemed unwilling or unlikely to discipline the juvenile or address the problem than those who seemed willing or likely to do so. Factors that were identified with lower frequency included circumstances and intent (under 11% indicated that they consider whether an incident appears to be a calculated or malevolent one when making a decision whether or not to make an arrest) and juvenile's age, attitude, and potential risk to society (with just over 21% of officers stating that they are more inclined to release young, respectful, non-threatening juveniles and more inclined to arrest those who are older, disrespectful, and dangerous).

Table 24: Factors Law Enforcement Officers Consider When Deciding Whether or Not to Make an Arrest	
Most Common Responses	**Number (%)**
Juvenile's criminal history	10 (52.6)
Type of crime committed	8 (42.1)
Availability of parents or diversion resources	13 (68.4)
Parenting culture	7 (36.8)
Juvenile's age, attitude, and potential risk to society	4 (21.1)
Circumstances and intent	2 (10.5)

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the 16 law enforcement officers who responded to this question. Because multiple response themes were coded for each individual, the total percentages in this table may exceed 100.

The third question was focused on law enforcement officers' views on the differential arrest rates between White and Hispanic youth. Specifically, the law enforcement officers were asked why they thought the arrest rate was higher for Hispanic youth in both 2009 and 2011 and why they thought that rate had fallen from 2009 to 2011. A total of 12 law enforcement officers (or 63% of those who participated in this wave of data collection) provided a response to this question. Because this question consists of two distinct parts, respondents' views on the differential arrest rates between White and Hispanic youth and their views on the decline in the arrest rates from 2009 to 2011, the presentation of the responses is also provided separately. The responses provided in regard to the rationale for the differential arrest rates are presented first, followed by the responses pertaining to the rationale for the decrease in the arrest rates over the three years. As seen below in Table 25, two main themes emerged in response to the question soliciting the law enforcement officers' opinions about the differential arrest rates between White and Hispanic youth. The most prominent theme cited by the officers was socio-economic status, including income and education (over 58% felt that lower socio-economic status is frequently associated with greater likelihood of engaging in criminal activities, and Hispanic youth tend to come from families with lower socio-economic status). Another factor that was mentioned with some frequency was the influx of juveniles from the surrounding areas to a hub city, which may have led to inaccurate or inflated arrest rates (over 33% stated that youth for the surrounding counties come to a hub city, cause trouble, and then go home, which might artificially inflate the arrest rates).

Table 25: Differential Arrest Rates between White and Hispanic Youth: Reason	
Most Common Responses	**Number (%)**
Socio-economic factors	7 (58.3)
Artificial inflation of arrest rates due to the influx of juveniles from surrounding areas to a hub city	4 (33.3)

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the 12 law enforcement officers who responded to this question.

The respondents also provided their views about what may have led to a decrease in the arrest rates from 2009 to 2011. As seen below in Table 26, four main themes emerged, all of which were roughly equally represented. The three themes that occurred with the greatest frequency (50% each) included: economic factors, decrease in gang membership, and increase in the number of schools and SROs. In terms of the economic factors, respondents in Twin Falls County believed that the economic shift from agriculture to industry may have resulted in a change in the demographic characteristics of the population (shifting from a more transient to a more permanent population), which in turn may have led to a decrease in crime rates. In terms of gang membership, respondents in Canyon County (where, according to the respondents, the majority of gang members are Hispanic) expressed that the gang activity in this county had significantly decreased over the three years due to a well-organized response of the three special task forces operating in this county (the Metro Task Force, the Caldwell Street Crimes Unit, and the Nampa Special Investigations Unit) in response to an increase in gang activity in 2009. Respondents in Twin Falls County reported that a recent increase in the number of schools and SROs may have helped to lower the rate of juvenile arrests in this county by keeping youth off the streets and in adult-supervised environment and by decreasing the SRO-student ratio. The theme that was represented with a somewhat lower frequency could be best described as turnover of the Hispanic population; four respondents in Twin Falls County believed that the change in the number of migrant workers, most of whom are Hispanic, may have contributed to the observed decrease in the rate of arrests of Hispanic juveniles over the three years. Other factors that were not named by a sufficient number of respondents to form a theme, but are nonetheless worth mentioning in this report, include parents' involvement, educational resources for juveniles, and department awareness of the current situation and its proactivity to address problems (each named by one or two respondents).

Table 26: Differential Arrest Rates between White and Hispanic Youth: Decrease	
Most Common Responses	**Number (%)**
Economic factors	6 (50.0)
Decrease in gang membership	6 (50.0)
Increase in the number of schools and SROs	6 (50.0)
Turnover of the Hispanic population	4 (33.3)

Note. The percentages in this table are calculated out of the 12 law enforcement officers who responded to this question. Because multiple response themes were coded for each individual, the total percentages in this table may exceed 100.

The fourth and final question solicited law enforcement officers' views about whether or not there is need to address racial or ethnic disparities in their respective counties, and if so, what their suggestions for addressing such disparities would be. Importantly, none of the law enforcement officers believed that racial or ethnic disparities existed in his or her respective county. Several respondents explicitly stated that it is the crime that dictates the officer's response not the demographic characteristics of the person committing the crime, with one respondent declaring, "It's the crime, not the kid," and another remarking that "You know what crime has been committed before you see who is in the car, before you pull them over; it doesn't make a difference if it's a 70-year-old lady behind the wheel or a Hispanic kid."

When asked whether there was anything else they wished to add, nine participants provided a suggestion for decreasing the rates of juvenile crime in their respective counties. These suggestions included addressing parenting issues, developing programs for low income families, and maintaining efforts to reduce gang membership. Several law officers expressed that parenting style is extremely important in influencing life choices that a juvenile makes and suggested that more efforts should be geared toward addressing a juvenile in relation to his or her environment, particularly parents and caregivers. One respondent stated that recent budget cuts have reduced the number of gang enforcement teams and cautioned that the gang-related problems might return if this trend continues. Finally, it was suggested that more extracurricular activities are needed for youth to keep them from engaging in criminal activities. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, some schools are reducing the number of extracurricular activities and other programs, a trend that is likely to affect youth from low income families, including Hispanic youth, the most.

Conclusion

In this report, information concerning factors associated with juvenile arrests is presented. This information was drawn from a sample of juvenile arrests large enough to be considered representative of the statewide population of juvenile arrest cases, although the sample was drawn from only two counties. Key findings of the study, with respect to the presence of DMC in juvenile arrests in Idaho, are several. Perhaps the most important finding is that although Hispanic youth are overrepresented proportionally in juvenile arrest cases (statewide RRIs for Hispanic juveniles in Idaho were 1.82, 1.60, and 1.08 in 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively), this may not be due to differential treatment by law enforcement officers because of their race/ethnicity. In short, it may be that there are some factors confounded with race/ethnicity that better explain why Hispanic juveniles are arrested more often than White juveniles. The most compelling explanation, according to the data presented in this report, is that Hispanic juveniles who were arrested during the years 2009-2011 were far more likely than White juveniles arrested within the same time period to be affiliated with a gang. This was found to be true in each individual year (with arrested Hispanic juveniles being 10.0, 4.6, and 4.5 times more to be affiliated with gangs than arrested White juveniles in 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively) and across the three years as a whole (arrested Hispanic juveniles were 6.1 times more likely to be affiliated with a gang than arrested White juveniles across the three-year period). Therefore, it seems highly plausible that the gang affiliation—rather than race/ethnicity per se—was the reason that Hispanic juveniles were arrested more often in Idaho during 2009-2011. Gang affiliation was the only factor that emerged as being independently associated (i.e., associated after controlling for the effects of other factors) with race/ethnicity in each year and during the entire three-year period, identifying it as the likely candidate for driving the disparity in juvenile arrest rates. Further evidence for the importance of the association between Gang Affiliation and the race/ethnicity of arrested juveniles is that when Gang Affiliation was removed from logistic regression analyses, the amount of variance in juvenile race/ethnicity accounted for by the variables fell dramatically (from 16% to 3% in 2009, from 6% to 1% in both 2010 and 2011, and from 9% to 2% across the three years).

A second key finding is that the law enforcement officers, during their interviews, expressed that race/ethnicity was not a factor in the decision-making process when they assessed whether or not to arrest a juvenile. Perhaps to some extent this is to be expected (it seems unlikely any officer would publicly support profiling by race/ethnicity), however, all officers were quite candid about what factors they did consider, and all seemed unrelated to the race/ethnicity or even the visible appearance of the juveniles. The factors instead seemed largely related to whether the juveniles had prior contact with law enforcement, the nature of the crime, whether there were diversionary mechanisms available to avoid arrest (if appropriate). At least from their perspective, there was no current need for DMC-focused training in their respective locations.

A final finding, and one that is more related to methodology than results, is that Idaho law enforcement agencies do not currently have data systems well-equipped to provide information about juvenile arrests. Different types of data were collected by different agencies, and one did not even collect the type of data (ethnicity) that is crucial for performing a DMC analysis. Any effort to assist agencies in their development or adoption of a standardized, uniform data collection system that captures information needed to assess DMC seems highly warranted.

It is important to note that the study described in this report, although it featured a number of methodological strengths (including randomly selection of a sample of arrest cases large enough for representativeness, use of a mixed-methods approach to gather quantitative and qualitative data necessary for triangulation of findings), had some weaknesses that should be recognized. Perhaps the largest was the inability to access information about gang affiliation among arrested juveniles in one of the two counties. Because gang affiliation emerged as the strongest (or in one year, the only) factor independently associated with the race/ethnicity of arrested juveniles, it would have been much more desirable to have this information on all juvenile arrest cases rather than only a subset. Another was an inability to gather information on race/ethnicity from one law enforcement agency. A third was having to use a modified, less methodologically-sound method of interviewing law enforcement in one of the two counties. Although these weaknesses certainly affected the study in some respects, it is still believed that the quality of most of the data is excellent, and that the results of this study should be useful in guiding juvenile justice efforts in Idaho in the future.

For future DMC assessment efforts in Idaho, two conclusions seem warranted. The first is that efforts should be made to assist law enforcement agencies in different jurisdictions to collect all of the important elements (and in the same way) for analysis of DMC. Making comparisons across jurisdictions is quite difficult under the best circumstances, and it becomes much more so if one or more jurisdictions are not capturing needed information such as race/ethnicity and gang involvement. The second is to be sensitive to the context of communities, and to perhaps avoid trying to make comparisons between or among communities in different parts of the same state (a position echoed by Feyerherm, n.d.), as they may differ widely culturally, socio-economically, and in other important respects. Comparisons between or among jurisdictions in the same area (for example, city police departments and the sheriff's department in the same county) may be more appropriate and defensible. In short, the quality of a DMC assessment is likely only as good, complete, and appropriate as the data are, and the better, more complete, and more appropriate the data, the better DMC assessments will be in Idaho.

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Appendix A

Demographics

Unique ID _____ Gender: ❒$_0$ Male ❒$_1$ Female Age at Arrest _____

Race/Ethnicity ❒$_1$ White/Caucasian ❒$_2$ Hispanic/Non-White

Gang Affiliation ❒$_0$ No ❒$_1$ Yes ❒$_2$ Unknown

Known Drug/Alcohol User ❒$_0$ No ❒$_1$ Yes

Arrest

Arresting Agency ❒$_1$ City ❒$_2$ Sheriff ❒$_3$ State ❒$_4$ Other _____

	Sex Offense	Persons	Property	Drug & Alcohol	Traffic	Other
Crime Type	❒$_1$	❒$_2$	❒$_3$	❒$_4$	❒$_5$	❒$_6$

Crime Level ❒$_0$ Not Felony ❒$_1$ Felony

Was a weapon involved? ❒$_0$ No ❒$_1$ Yes

Geographic location of violation

❒$_1$School ❒$_2$ Park ❒$_3$ Home ❒$_4$ Store ❒$_5$ Other _____

Physical address of violation

_____

Time of day of violation _____

Appendix B

Questions for Law Enforcement Officers:

1. What is the level and nature of your interactions with juveniles in your work?

2. When you are involved in a situation in which you must make a decision about whether to arrest a juvenile, what are the most important factors you consider in making that decision? Why and how do you consider these factors?

3. A) **Twin Falls County:** In 2009, state data showed that Hispanic youth in Twin Falls County were 3.59 times more likely to be arrested per capita than non-Hispanic White youth. In 2011, that rate had fallen to 1.62.
    - Why do you think the rate was higher for Hispanic youth in both years? *Prompts (if needed): Factors affecting Hispanic youth that increase the likelihood of contact with the juvenile justice system? Ways Hispanic youth react or respond to contact by LEOs?*
    - Why do you think the rate fell so much in just two years?

    B) **Canyon County:** In 2009, state data showed that Hispanic youth in Canyon County were 1.59 times more likely to be arrested per capita than non-Hispanic White youth. In 2011, that rate had fallen to 1.01—meaning there was essentially no difference in arrest rates between Hispanic and non-Hispanic White youth.
    - Why do you think the rate was higher for Hispanic youth in 2009? *Prompts (if needed): Factors affecting Hispanic youth that increase the likelihood of contact with the juvenile justice system? Ways Hispanic youth react or respond to contact by LEOs?*
    - Why do you think the disparity in arrest rates vanished in just two years?

4. Do you think there is a need to address racial or ethnic disparities in juvenile justice at larger scale at your county? If yes, at what would be your suggestions for addressing such disparities?