

Trends and Characteristics of Richmond City Youth Referred to the Department of Justice Services 2003 - 2018

Background

The Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development regularly examines trends of youth violence in Richmond City. This fact sheet examines trends and characteristics of youth who were referred to the Department of Justice Services (DJS). The DJS provides a variety of services to youth and their families who are either at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system or have been processed by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. This fact sheet describes youth who were referred to the DJS between 2003 and 2018 and formally involved in the court system for offenses *other than truancy-related offenses*. Youth between the ages of 10 and 18 years were included in this analysis. Age (in years) was calculated by subtracting the date of birth from date of first service referral. Where referral date was missing, the mid-point of the calendar year was used. Referral data was missing in less than 1% of the youth.

Overall DJS Service Referrals

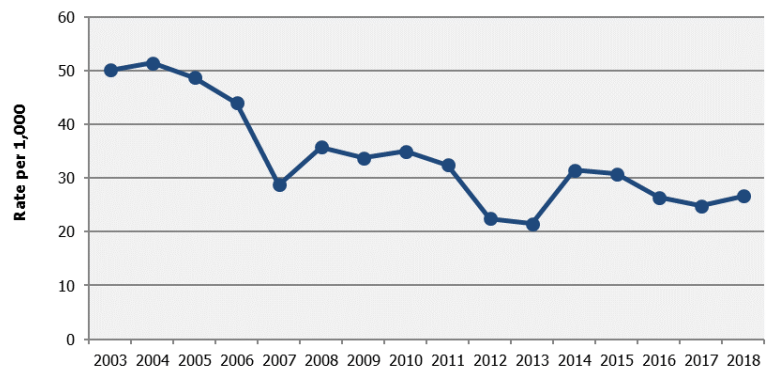
Between 2003 and 2018, there were 11,067 youths who were formally referred to the DJS for offenses that were not truancy-related (N=29,427). Table 1 shows the number of youth clients, service referrals, and the mean and range of referrals by years of service.

	Unique Clients ¹ (n)	Service Referrals (n)	Mean Referrals (Range)
2003	1,075	3,446	3.2 (1-22)
2004	1,103	3,437	3.1 (1-22)
2005	1,045	3,287	3.1 (1-28)
2006	943	2,407	2.6 (1-18)
2007	617	1,327	2.2 (1-17)
2008	767	2,129	2.8 (1-19)
2009	725	2,328	3.2 (1-34)
2010	666	1,918	2.9 (1-26)
2011	618	1,716	2.8 (1-16)
2012	428	1,045	2.4 (1-15)
2013	409	887	2.2 (1-12)
2014	600	1,397	2.3 (1-14)
2015	587	1,433	2.4 (1-12)
2016	503	1,048	3.2 (1-21)
2017	473	776	1.9 (1-30)
2018	508	846	2.0 (1-24)

¹Unique clients in the calendar year

The rate of youth referrals to the DJS declined overall with the exception of sharp increases in 2008 and 2014. The rate decreased from 50.1 per 1,000 in 2003 to 26.7 per 1,000 in 2018, a decrease of 47% (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Rates of Youths 10-18 Years Referred to DJS



Note: The specific yearly rates are reported in the Figure 1 Alternative Table in the Appendix.

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The five most frequently occurring offenses for DJS referrals are shown in Table 2. Note that the shading indicates offenses that have ever appeared in the top three most common offenses during this time period. Between 2003 and 2015, assault was the most frequently reported offense. Larceny, parole violation, drug, weapon and disorderly conduct offenses remained in the top five offenses between 2003 and 2013; however, between 2014 and 2016 and in 2018 burglary and robbery emerged as most frequently occurring offenses. Further, in 2017, traffic-related offenses appeared as a top five most frequent offense.

Table 2: Top Five Most Frequent Offenses Among Court-Involved Youth 10-18 Years Old						
	1	2	3	4	5	
2003	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation ¹	Drug ¹	Weapon	
2004			Drug	Parole Violation	Disorderly Conduct	
2005			Drug	Larceny	Disorderly Conduct	Weapon
2006			Larceny	Drug	Weapon	Parole Violation
2007			Disorderly Conduct	Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug
2008		Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug	Parole Violation	
2009		Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug	Disorderly Conduct	
2010		Disorderly Conduct	Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug	
2011		Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug	Parole Violation	
2012		Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug	Disorderly Conduct	
2013		Larceny	Parole Violation	Weapon	Disorderly Conduct	
2014		Parole Violation	Larceny	Weapon	Burglary	
2015		Parole Violation	Larceny	Burglary	Robbery	
2016		Larceny	Parole Violation	Assault	Weapon	
2017		Larceny	Assault	Parole Violation	Robbery	Traffic-related
2018	Larceny	Assault	Parole Violation	Weapon	Robbery	

Note: It is possible to have multiple referrals for a single offense; in these analyses, all referrals were included
¹ In 2003, the number of referrals were the same for both offenses; parole violation is ranked higher as it was more frequently reported as the first offense listed in a referral

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Violence-Related DJS Service Referrals

Violent offenses comprised of homicide, assault, sexual assault, weapons/bombs, robbery, and kidnapping offenses. Table 3 shows a summary of referrals by year of service for violence-related offenses.

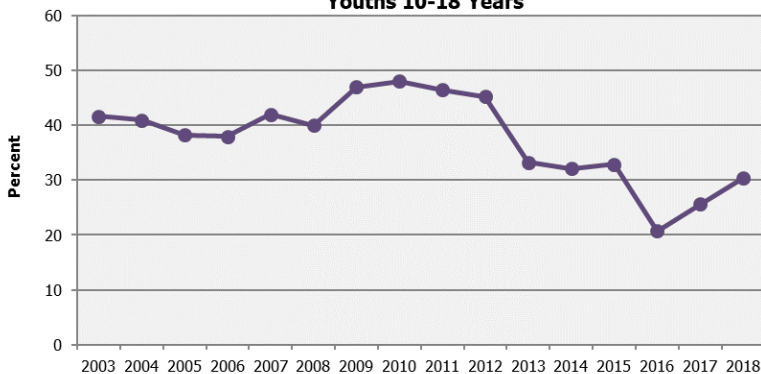
	Unique Clients ¹ (n)	Service Referrals (n)	Mean Referrals (Range)
2003	558	1,436	2.6 (1-13)
2004	568	1,407	2.5 (1-19)
2005	514	1,256	2.4 (1-20)
2006	462	914	2.0 (1-12)
2007	292	557	1.9 (1-13)
2008	391	851	2.2 (1-15)
2009	409	1,094	2.7 (1-33)
2010	386	922	2.4 (1-26)
2011	325	798	2.5 (1-13)
2012	201	473	2.4 (1-11)
2013	168	295	1.8 (1-12)
2014	235	449	1.9 (1-8)
2015	242	471	2.0 (1-9)
2016	172	217	2.2 (1-10)
2017	148	199	4.5 (1-36)
2018	196	257	4.3 (1-26)

¹Unique clients in the calendar year

Although the majority of referrals to the DJS were not for violent offenses, the proportion of referrals that were violence-related increased overall between 2003 and 2012. However, there was a significant decline in 2013 and stabilization through 2015 followed by a decrease in 2016 to 20.7% and increases over the subsequent two years to 30.4% in 2019 (Figure 2).

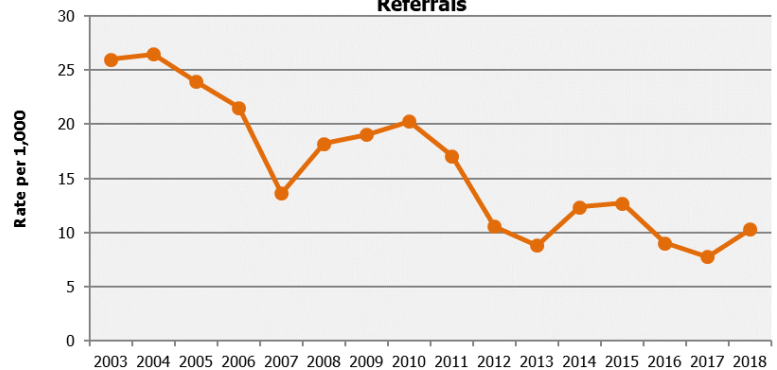
The pattern of violence-related referral rates are shown in Figure 3. There was a steep decline between 2003 and 2007 from 26.0 to 13.6 per 1,000 youths, respectively. However, the rate increased between 2008 and 2010, to 20.3 per 1,000 youths. Subsequently, the rate youth with violence-related referrals declined annually to 8.8 per 1,000 in 2013 and was followed by biennial rate fluctuations.

Figure 2: Proportion of Violence-Related Referrals Among Youths 10-18 Years



Note: The specific yearly rates are reported in the Figure 2 Alternative Table in the Appendix.

Figure 3: Rate of Youths 10-18 Years with Violence-Related Referrals



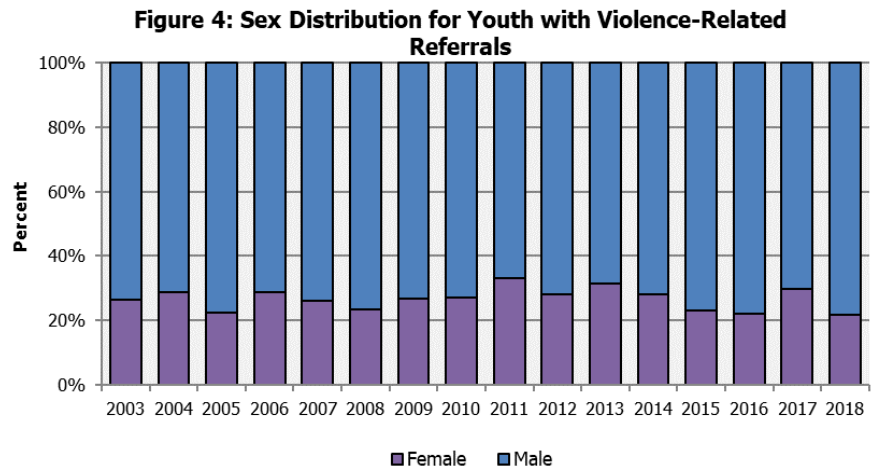
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Demographic Characteristics Among Youth Referred for Violence-Related Offenses

Overall, the majority of violence-related referrals were for male and black youths. The proportion of female clients referred for violence-related offenses ranged from 22.1% in 2016 to 33.2% in 2011. In general, the proportions of referrals among male and female were consistent (Figure 4).

As shown in Table 4, black youth represented the majority of youth referred for violence-related offenses; however, in 2018, the proportion was at its lowest during the observed time period. White, Hispanic, and youth of other races accounted for less than 3% of DJS clients per year, except in 2018 where 5.6% of youth were of Hispanic origin. The mean age of males and females was similar, ranging from 14.9 to 16.4 years, yet there was a statistically significant difference in the mean age between males and females in 2006, 2007, 2015 and 2016.



Note: The specific yearly rates are reported in the Figure 4 Alternative Table in the Appendix.

	Race & Ethnicity ¹				Mean Age	
	Black	White	Hispanic	Other	Males	Females
2003	96.6	2.3	0.4	0.7	15.2	14.9
2004	97.0	1.8	0.7	0.5	15.5	15.4
2005	97.5	1.9	0.2	0.4	15.8	15.8
2006	96.8	2.2	0.9	0.2	15.9*	15.5*
2007	96.3	1.0	2.4	0.3	15.9*	15.5*
2008	95.9	1.8	2.0	0.3	16.2	15.9
2009	96.8	2.0	1.2	0.0	16.2	16.1
2010	95.6	1.6	2.6	0.2	16.1	15.9
2011	95.7	2.1	1.8	0.3	16.2	16.0
2012	98.0	0.5	1.5	0.0	16.1	15.9
2013	94.0	2.4	3.0	0.6	15.8	15.6
2014	94.9	2.5	1.8	0.8	15.8	15.8
2015	96.3	0.4	2.5	0.8	16.0*	15.4*
2016	94.2	2.9	2.9	0.0	16.4*	15.7*
2017	97.3	0.7	1.4	0.7	15.9	15.6
2018	89.3	2.6	5.6	2.5	16.1	15.9

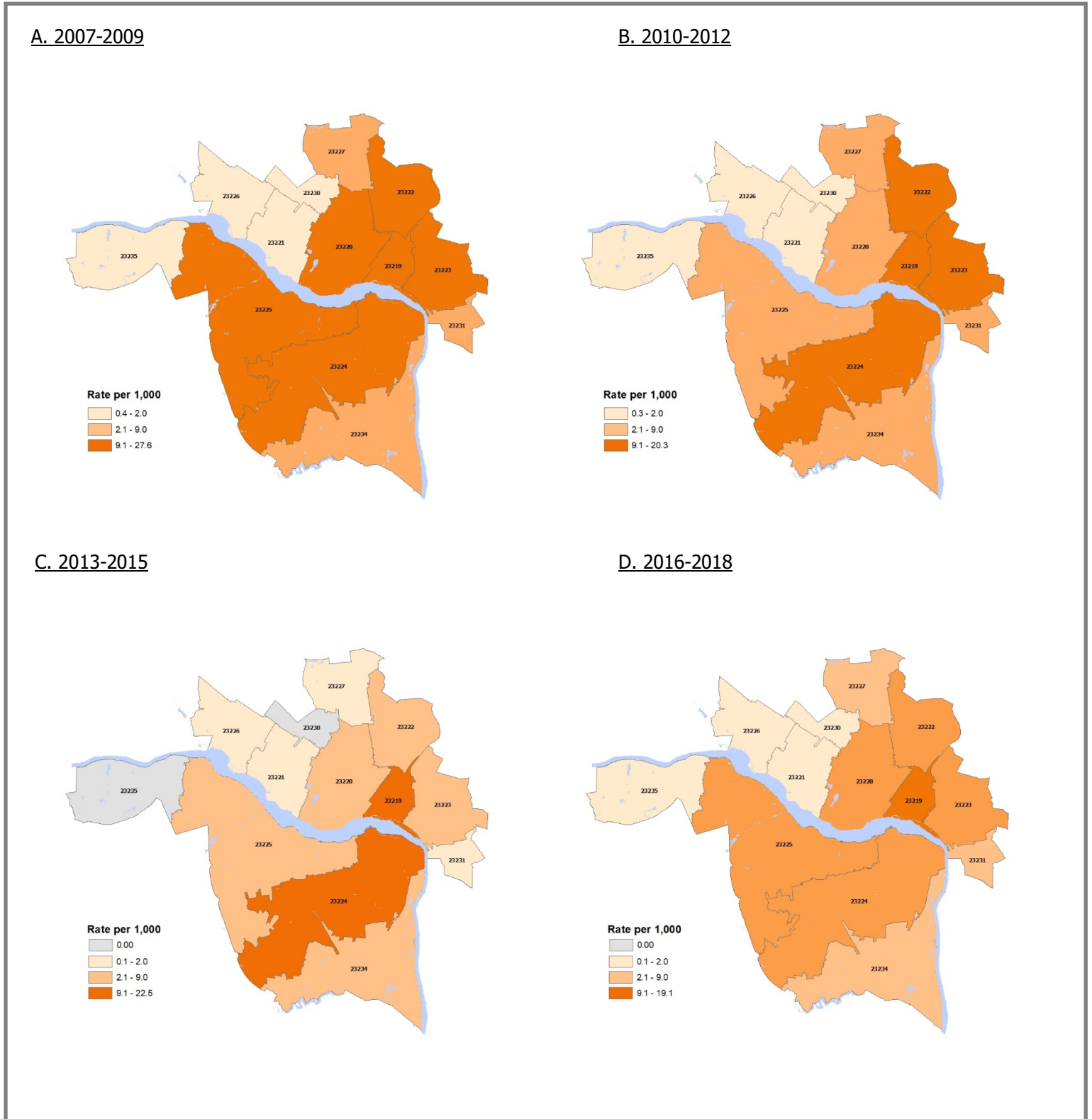
¹ Ethnicity was not captured separately from race
* p-value < 0.05

Geographic Distribution

The geographic distribution of 3-year averaged rates of residential zip codes of clients served by DJS for violence-related offenses between 2007 and 2018 are shown in Figure 5. In 2004-2006 (not shown) and 2007-2009, the highest rate of violence-related referrals occurred in the northeast and southcentral areas; more specifically in zip codes: 23219, 23220, 23222, 23223, 23224, and 23225. Rates decreased overall in 2010-2012, 2013-2015, and 2016-2018, with the 23219 zip code consistently retaining the highest rate in all 3-year periods.

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Figure 5: Rate of Unique Clients 10-18 Years Old Referred for Services for Violence-Related Offenses by Zip Code of Residence, 2007-2018



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Acknowledgment: We would like to thank the Richmond City Department of Justice Services for providing us with the data used to generate this report.

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We want to acknowledge the contributions of Saba W. Masho, MD, MPH, DrPH to this project. Although no longer with us, she continues to serve as an inspiration based on the example she set, her passion for this project, and dedication to the Richmond community she served. Without her leadership and guidance, this work would not have been possible.

The VCU Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development is a National Academic Center of Excellence for Youth Violence Prevention and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For more information contact: Derek Chapman, PhD at derek.chapman@vcuhealth.org or Diane Bishop at diane.bishop@vcuhealth.org

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Appendix: Data tables as an alternative to figures

Figure 1 Alternative Table: Rates of Youths 10-18 Years Referred to DJS																
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Rate per 1,000	50.1	51.4	48.7	44.0	28.8	35.7	33.8	35.0	32.4	22.5	21.5	31.5	30.8	26.4	24.8	26.7

Alternative Table 2: Top Five Most Frequent Offenses Among Court-Involved Youth 10-18 Years Old					
	1	2	3	4	5
2003	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation ¹	Drug ²	Weapon
2004	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug	Disorderly Conduct
2005	Assault	Larceny	Drug	Parole Violation	Disorderly Conduct
2006	Assault	Larceny	Drug	Weapon	Parole Violation
2007	Assault	Drug	Larceny	Disorderly Conduct	Weapon
2008	Assault	Drug	Larceny	Weapon	Disorderly Conduct
2009	Assault	Larceny	Drug	Weapon	Disorderly Conduct
2010	Assault	Disorderly Conduct	Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug
2011	Assault	Disorderly Conduct	Larceny	Drug	Parole Violation
2012	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug	Disorderly Conduct
2013	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation	Weapon	Disorderly Conduct
2014	Assault	Parole Violation	Larceny	Weapon	Burglary
2015	Assault	Parole Violation	Larceny	Burglary	Robbery
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Note: It is possible to have multiple referrals for a single offense; in these analyses, all referrals were included
¹ The number of referrals were the same for both offenses; parole violation is ranked higher as it was more frequently reported as the first offense listed in a referral

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Figure 2 Alternative Table: Proportion of Violence-Related Referrals Among Youths 10-18 Years

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Violence-Related Referrals (%)	41.7	40.9	38.2	38.0	42.0	40.0	47.0	48.1	46.5	45.3	33.3	32.1	32.9	20.7	25.6	30.4

Figure 3 Alternative Table: Rate of Youths 10-18 Years with Violence-Related Referrals

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Rate per 1,000	26.0	26.5	24.0	21.5	13.6	18.2	19.1	20.3	17.1	10.6	8.8	12.3	12.7	9.0	7.8	10.3

Figure 4 Alternative Table: Sex Distribution for Youth with Violence-Related Referrals

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female Referrals (%)	26.5	28.6	22.3	28.9	26.1	23.3	26.6	27.2	33.2	28.2	31.5	28.2	23.1	22.1	29.7	21.9
Male Referrals (%)	73.5	71.4	77.7	71.1	73.9	76.7	73.4	72.8	66.8	71.8	68.5	71.8	76.9	77.9	70.3	78.1

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Figure 5 Alternative Table: Rate of Unique Clients 10-18 Years Old Referred for Services for Violence-Related Offenses by Zip Code of Residence, 2004-2018

	2004-2006 (not shown in Figure)	2007-2009	2010-2012	2013-2015	2016-2018
23219	57.0	27.6	20.3	22.5	19.1
23220	10.1	10.6	7.1	6.5	2.5
23221	1.1	1.6	1.0	1.5	0.0
23222	21.0	13.5	16.2	8.5	4.5
23223	19.2	12.0	10.8	8.7	4.6
23224	30.4	19.0	18.2	12.0	7.5
23225	14.4	10.3	7.8	4.3	2.7
23226	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0
23227	5.4	6.4	3.5	2.0	1.2
23230	1.1	0.6	1.7	0.0	0.0
23231	7.3	3.7	2.7	0.9	0.6
23234	8.6	4.6	4.2	3.7	1.7
23235	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0